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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Seventh session
New York, 21 April-2 May 2008
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

United Nations Development Fund for Women

Summary

Since 1994, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has been developing projects and programmes that respond to the need to incorporate gender-related indigenous issues at the forefront of its agenda. Integrating indigenous women's rights is fundamental to UNIFEM, and it seeks to more fully develop and expand its existing projects while eliciting the cooperation and support of other United Nations agencies.

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I. Introduction

1. The programme of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) focuses on advocacy for indigenous women's rights and on eliminating discrimination. The UNIFEM approach is based on mainstreaming gender and women's human rights into its programme by engaging indigenous groups, women and girls and enhancing civic engagement through strategic partnerships between women's organizations and advocacy groups.

II. Response to recommendations addressed exclusively to the United Nations Development Fund for Women

2. UNIFEM has continued to foster networking and advocacy by indigenous women, ensuring their participation in key global and regional events, such as the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2007 and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Tenth Regional Conference on Women, held in July 2007 in Quito. This has contributed to a stronger presence of indigenous women's issues in conference outcomes and an increased dialogue between feminist and indigenous women's networks.

3. For the Tenth Regional Conference on Women, UNIFEM ensured that indigenous women were present and that their voices were heard. It supported the participation of indigenous women and encouraged Latin American Governments to include them in their delegations. UNIFEM supported the indigenous women's pre-conference, where leaders of organizations met with women leaders of Afro-descendant organizations to agree on a common agenda and advocacy strategy to influence the outcome of the Regional Conference. As result of this advocacy, ethnic and racial issues were included in the official declaration of the conference, the Quito Declaration.

4. In addition, UNIFEM, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, organized the panel on the theme "Citizenship, participation and the rights of indigenous and Afro-descendant women" in the context of the Tenth Regional Conference on Women. In an overflowing room, leaders of indigenous women's organizations — Otilia Lux de Coti, Margarita Antonio, Mirian Mazaquiza and Afro-descendant leader Inés Barbosa — addressed issues of political participation within the indigenous and Afro-descendant movement and in political parties.

5. UNIFEM has supported indigenous women's organizations to build common agendas and present their demands to key stakeholders. In Guatemala, organizations of indigenous women presented their common agenda to the agencies of the United Nations system in the country, and in Mexico, indigenous women agreed upon a national agenda and a federal agenda for the state of Guerrero. In Paraguay, UNIFEM provided financial support to the National Coordination of Labour Organizations of Rural and Indigenous Women. With this support, two national meetings were organized in which 400 women participated.

6. In Brazil, UNIFEM supported the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant women in the National Conference on Policies for Women in Brazil. This event was promoted by the Ministry of Policies for Women and attracted more than 2,500 women delegates from all 28 states in the country.

7. Building effective tools for advocacy has been undertaken in the Andean region with indigenous women in order to strengthen their capacity to influence policymaking in such areas as poverty and violence against women.

III. Response to recommendations addressed to one or more agencies or to the United Nations system in general

8. UNIFEM has been working towards raising the awareness and capacities of representatives from national statistics offices, national women's machineries, indigenous organizations and United Nations agencies from over 18 countries to develop and use gender statistics. UNIFEM supported the Eighth International Meeting on Gender Statistics for Public Policies, held in Aguascalientes, Mexico. That meeting included session on indigenous women and the measuring of poverty from a gender perspective.

9. In Paraguay, the UNIFEM programme on incorporating gender and racial and ethnic equality dimensions into poverty eradication programmes in four Latin American countries supported the production of sex-disaggregated indicators on poverty, race and ethnicity in order to highlight the situation of indigenous and Guaraní-speaking women. In Brazil, the same programme supported the development of a series of indicators on poverty, race and ethnicity, developed and updated by the Research Institute on Applied Economics of the Brazilian Ministry of Planning.

10. UNIFEM has been actively participating in inter-agency initiatives to include the issues of indigenous women in their programmes and policies. In Bolivia, UNIFEM participates in the United Nations country team group on gender and interculturality, and, thanks to the efforts of UNIFEM in that group, the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues have been gathered, disseminated and used to lobby the Under-Secretary for Gender Affairs. In addition, the group has been advocating and supporting the publication of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in the Quechua language to serve as tool in the capacity-building of indigenous women in the area of women's human rights.

11. UNIFEM participates in the United Nations Development Group task team on indigenous issues, which is developing guidelines on indigenous peoples' issues for United Nations country teams. This has resulted in gender issues and indigenous women's human rights being covered in the final guidelines through inputs at several stages and a review of the final draft.

12. During the 2007 session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UNIFEM organized its annual meeting between representatives of the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI) and United Nations agencies (UNFPA, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) to share the work of the agencies with indigenous women and to further discuss ways of cooperation.

13. The work of UNIFEM with indigenous women includes initiatives to strengthen indigenous women's political participation. In Bolivia, UNIFEM and a national non-governmental organization supported the political lobby of indigenous women to include the demands of indigenous women in southern Bolivia and in the province of Cochabamba. As a result, the new Constitution in Bolivia includes responses to indigenous women's demands. This process involved working closely with indigenous women to strengthen their advocacy skills.

14. Also in Bolivia, 610 indigenous female leaders of the Bartolina Sisa Federation of Peasant Women were trained in an initiative led by UNIFEM. The training strengthened indigenous women's leadership abilities, monitoring processes and lobbying tools to influence public policies. Subsequently, the training was replicated for 7,620 indigenous women across the country.

15. The work of UNIFEM in the eradication of violence against women includes the dissemination of knowledge by supporting strategic studies on violence against indigenous women and packaging these studies in a user-friendly way to inform advocacy and planning. For example, it supported the production and dissemination of the FIMI report "Mairin iwanka raya: indigenous women stand against violence" and its translation into Spanish so that it could be disseminated in Latin America. The report serves as a companion to the Secretary-General's study on violence against women.

16. In Bolivia and Ecuador, non-governmental organizations, indigenous organizations and local governments have an increased capacity to improve access to justice in cases of violence against indigenous women. In 2006 the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women, managed by UNIFEM, financed a project in Bolivia and Ecuador to improve access to justice for indigenous women in Sucumbíos, Ecuador, and Pando, Bolivia, through two main strategies: (a) awareness-raising among indigenous leaders and indigenous communities on violence against women, with the aim of recognizing it as a problem and exploring mechanisms to address it, and (b) awareness-raising among public officials to provide culturally responsive and adequate services to women victims of violence. In Guatemala, the Trust Fund is supporting a project that works on the eradication of violence against women in Mayan communities of Quetzaltenango by increasing their abilities in advocacy for the eradication of such violence and improving access to services for victims. In Nicaragua, the Trust Fund supported the development of a model for services for female victims of violence in two municipalities that will be applied in Afro-descendant and Miskito communities on the Atlantic coast. The project will improve data collection and local services and train the police in providing attention to victims.

17. In Ecuador, UNIFEM has supported different initiatives to increase indigenous women leaders' capacities to effectively address violence against women from an intercultural perspective, including a workshop on the impact of violence on the health of indigenous women, where 100 participants agreed on specific demands to the Government, particularly on improving access to formal and informal justice systems. In Cotacachi, Ecuador, UNIFEM provided technical assistance for a participatory process in which a local legal framework for indigenous communities was developed and approved. UNIFEM supported the organization of the eighth National Assembly of the National Council of Indigenous Women of Ecuador (CONMIE). That meeting included violence against women as one of the main

issues discussed by the 80 participants. A member of CONMIE spoke at the national launching of the "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence" campaign.

18. In Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNIFEM financed a project on a regional radio network, to train community radio journalists on the prevention of violence against women. As a result, 55 journalists (about half of them women) from 30 community radio stations increased their capacity in producing radio programmes addressing the issues of violence against women from an ethnic perspective; six radio spots and eight sociodramas in different languages were produced; and 20 radio stations participated in a regional competition. All products were disseminated and broadcast during the "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence" campaign.

IV. Efforts regarding indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals

19. UNIFEM has been actively working with the United Nations country team in Guatemala, where a gender equality window was granted under the Millennium Development Goal funding mechanism to work on strengthening national institutions and policies on gender, with the participation of indigenous women.

Millennium Development Goal 1

20. In the framework of the UNIFEM programme on incorporating gender and racial and ethnic equality dimensions into poverty eradication programmes in four Latin American countries, UNIFEM and the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales developed a study on the situation of indigenous women in Guatemala based on data collected by UNDP and indigenous organizations. That study identifies indigenous and Afro-descendant women's organizations in order to build future partnerships for the development of national programmes. Also, in Guatemala, UNIFEM worked closely with the Public Defender of Indigenous Women to strengthen the capacity to incorporate indigenous women's perspectives in public policies and government practices. In Paraguay, UNIFEM developed a study on gender, race and ethnicity inequalities that analyses, from gender, race and ethnic perspectives, the situation of rural, Guaraní-speaking, indigenous and Afro-descendant women. That study was used in the drafting of the shadow report on gender to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, coordinated by the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defence of Women's Rights of Paraguay, in partnership with other civil society organizations.

V. Subjects given special emphasis by the Permanent Forum

21. The work of UNIFEM on indigenous women and collection and disaggregation of data has been addressed above.

VI. Obstacles to the implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum

22. In paragraph 105 of its report on its sixth session,[1] the Permanent Forum called on the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to hold regional consultations with indigenous women in Asia, and requested that UNIFEM support such consultations. UNIFEM was informed that the regional consultations could be held.

VII. Facilitating factors for the implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum

23. The Permanent Forum had very few recommendations for UNIFEM, and many of the previous recommendations are covered in the UNIFEM programmatic priorities.

VIII. Policies on indigenous peoples' issues

24. Outcome 6 of the 2008-2011 strategic plan of UNIFEM states that the most marginalized women (HIV-positive women, women informal sector workers, migrant women, indigenous women, women survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations, women with disabilities, etc.) should have increased resources, capacities and voice to ensure that their priorities are included in relevant national policies, programmes and budgets.

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43).

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

International Fund for Agricultural Development

Summary

In 2007, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, (IFAD) continued its engagement in working to enable indigenous peoples to enhance their role as agents in transforming their lives. The Fund welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly. The recently approved IFAD strategic framework 2007-2010 singles out indigenous peoples as one of the Fund's principle target groups.

In compliance with the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its sixth session, the Fund reports that during the course of 2007 it approved a number of projects that specifically targeted indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities for a total amount of $118.3 million in loans and $2.3 million in grants.

In addition, in 2007 IFAD responded to the Permanent Forum recommendations and carried out the initiatives specified below:

- Started a process to develop its principles of engagement with indigenous peoples
- Approved eight country strategic opportunity programmes that specifically addressed and targeted indigenous peoples
- Managed for the first time the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, which had been transferred from the World Bank in 2006

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- Funded a desk review of the Latin America and Caribbean portfolio related to indigenous peoples
- Prepared a paper on policies and lessons for reaching indigenous peoples in development programmes on the occasion of the international conference on taking action for the world's poor and hungry people, organized by the Chinese State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development and the International Food Policy Research Institute
- Commissioned a study to be conducted by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on the theme "Tribal women: empowerment through mutual learning and sharing of experiences"
- Created awareness and sensitized staff on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- In cooperation with the World Bank, supported the participation of members of the Permanent Forum at the meeting of the Working Group on Environment of the Multilateral Financial Institutions, held in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2007
- Held a workshop to present the findings of an assessment of the achievements of the First International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in Asia

International Land Coalition

In 2007, the International Land Coalition distilled lessons learned from the projects on indigenous peoples access to land that are funded through its Community Empowerment Facility.

Adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Fund works to enable indigenous peoples to lead the kind of life they value, to be free from marginalization and to enhance their role in transforming their own lives. IFAD welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a historic achievement that validates the tireless struggle of indigenous peoples worldwide for human rights and equality. The Declaration provides them with an international instrument to better preserve their cultures and heritage and to strengthen their ability to shape and direct their own destinies, both collectively and as individuals.

The recently approved IFAD strategic framework 2007-2010 highlights indigenous peoples, among the IFAD target groups, as deserving focused attention to reduce their poverty, marginalization and vulnerability. The strategic framework maintains that indigenous peoples are often the most vulnerable in the context of a breakdown of traditional natural resources governance systems and the emergence of commercially driven ones. It also acknowledges the role of indigenous peoples as custodians of the world's biodiversity and providers of environmental services. Furthermore, it stresses the need for enabling indigenous peoples to build organizations to manage their resources effectively and generate an income stream that will provide for sustainable resource use.

I. Responses of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to the recommendations addressed by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its sixth session to the United Nations system in general under one or more items of the Forum's mandate

Special theme: "Territories, lands and natural resources"

A. Response to recommendations 19, 26 and 28

1. Access to land and security of tenure are crucial to achieving the objectives of poverty reduction. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has learned by experience the importance of strengthening the access rights of indigenous peoples to natural resources. Programmes in which rural communities, Governments and IFAD have joined forces have facilitated the recognition or protection of these rights, both collective and individual, including through demarcation of ancestral lands, forests and water sources, support to more gender-equal entitlements and advocacy.

2. The Fund is currently developing a policy on equitable access to land and tenure security for rural poverty reduction. The policy will aim at enhancing the capacity of IFAD to ensure that poor rural men and women have better and sustainable access to such natural resources as land and water and that they have developed the necessary skills and organization to take advantage of that access. A focus on the specific land rights of indigenous peoples and adherence to the principle of free, prior and informed consent will guide the mainstreaming of land issues in IFAD engagements and operational instruments.

3. The country programmes of IFAD are led by results-based country strategic opportunity programmes, which are aligned with the IFAD strategic framework[1] and national poverty strategies. In 2007, the IFAD Executive Board approved a total of 15 country strategic opportunity programmes, 8 of which specifically addressed indigenous peoples issues. Detailed information is provided in the annex to the present report. In the programme for Bolivia, for instance, priority is given to capacity-building and to empowering indigenous peoples to foster their unique potential for natural resources management. The Honduras programme recognizes that a special focus on indigenous peoples communities is required for the fulfilment of two strategic objectives, namely, to improve income-generating opportunities and to strengthen the organizational capacities and bargaining power of grass-roots organizations. Strategic objective 2 of the Panama programme, on improving local government and social empowerment, will be pursued with a particular focus on indigenous and ethnic groups. The Cambodia programme will highlight the needs of ethnic minorities and advocacy for indigenous peoples.

4. While the approved country strategies for Burkina Faso, Kenya and Mauritania do not specifically mention indigenous peoples, they promote inclusive and participatory natural resources management, with specific reference to customary land tenure rights. Based on lessons learned, cultural differences in land

[1] IFAD strategic framework 2007-2010, p. 19. Available at http://www.ifad.org/sf/strategic_e.pdf.

management are highlighted as a strategic element to increase the sustainability of interventions.

B. Response to recommendation 34

5. The Fund will support the dissemination and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in cooperation with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues. The Fund also reports that it promoted awareness-building on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples before its approval. In June 2007, the Chair of the Permanent Forum organized a presentation at IFAD headquarters aiming at sensitizing the staff of the Rome-based agencies. Following adoption of the Declaration by the General Assembly, IFAD, in cooperation with the World Bank, dedicated a session of the annual meeting of the Multilateral Financial Institutions Working Group on Environment to presenting and discussing the implications of the adopted Declaration for those institutions, in particular in view of the ongoing revisions of safeguard guidelines by some members of the Group.

Economic and social development

C. Response to recommendation 45

6. In 2007, in addition to projects approved under its loan and grant facility in favour of indigenous peoples, IFAD managed the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, which had been transferred from the World Bank in 2006.

7. The Facility provides small grants that range from $10,000 to $30,000 for projects designed and implemented by indigenous peoples communities and organizations. In response to the first call by the International Fund for Agricultural Development for grant proposals, more than 1,000 applications were received from organizations and municipalities in 86 countries worldwide. A board with a majority of indigenous peoples leaders, including the Chair of the Permanent Forum, manages the Facility, providing strategic guidance and making final decisions on grant awards. In June, the board of the Facility approved the financing of 30 projects in 24 countries worldwide, for a total amount of $603,000. The approved projects addressed the following issues:

- Protection and patenting of intellectual property rights
- Culturally appropriate ethno-tourism models
- Mapping of indigenous and tribal peoples territories and cultures
- Management of natural resources and protection of biodiversity
- Collection of disaggregated data on indigenous and tribal populations
- Management of community-based forestry
- Capacity-building to revitalize cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
- Capacity-building on indigenous peoples rights

- Improvement of health services through the integration of traditional knowledge systems
- Disaster and climate change risk management based on traditional knowledge and practices
- Improvement of livelihoods through sustainable agricultural practices, off-farm activities, enterprise development and access to market
- Women's empowerment through capacity-building on cultural identity and traditional handicrafts, and crop diversification

8. The Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility is currently funded by IFAD, the World Bank and the Governments of Finland and Norway. The Facility needs more resources to be able to meet the demands of indigenous peoples communities and organizations for support for their own projects.

9. The challenges and solutions presented by indigenous peoples organizations in their grant proposals provide a wealth of information. IFAD is funding a study that uses this information to compile innovative solutions to rural poverty. The study will also identify promising indigenous grass-roots organizations with which to develop pilot participatory learning processes in selected countries. Through targeted advocacy, the Facility will attempt to build solid bridges for national policy dialogue between indigenous peoples organizations and the Permanent Forum.

Environment

D. Response to recommendation 57

10. In March 2007, IFAD participated in the workshop on indicators relevant for indigenous peoples, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals held in the Philippines.

11. In order to allow field-level piloting of indicators in Asia, IFAD extended the closing date of the grant contributed in 2005 to the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, whose objective was to define specific indicators of poverty and well-being among indigenous peoples.

E. Response to recommendation 58

12. In November 2007, IFAD hosted the annual meeting of the Multilateral Financial Institutions Working Group on Environment. In cooperation with the World Bank, members of the Permanent Forum were invited to share their views with the group and present the recently approved Declaration. In addition to the participation of Permanent Forum members at the meeting, a special half-day session was dedicated to addressing indigenous peoples issues. Participants discussed the existing policies on indigenous peoples in multilateral financial institutions, the implications for those institutions in implementing free, prior and informed consent, and issues related to climate change and indigenous peoples.

Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

F. Response to recommendation 99

13. Following the recommendations of the Permanent Forum in previous years, and within the framework of the Declaration, in 2007, IFAD started a process to develop its own principles of engagement with indigenous peoples. The process will be conducted in consultation with indigenous peoples and with interested members of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues.

Half-day discussion on urban indigenous peoples and migration

G. Response to recommendations 109 and 110

14. Even though IFAD does not yet have a specific focus on migration and indigenous peoples, the Fund wishes to advise of the existence of the Financing Facility for Remittances[2] and invites interested organizations to submit their applications through a competitive process of call for proposals and application requirements. The goal of the Facility is to reduce poverty by leveraging remittances and migrant capital for development in rural areas in developing countries. The financing facility will launch its next call for proposals in late March 2008. Detailed information on the Facility is available at the following address: http://www.ifad.org/ruralfinance/remittance/call.htm#3.

II. Other significant information on recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities regarding indigenous issues within the International Fund for Agricultural Development

15. Through its loan facility, the IFAD Executive Board approved 10 projects in 2007 supporting indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities. The approved projects cover five countries in Asia (Cambodia, China, Nepal, Philippines and Viet Nam), four in Latin America (El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras and Peru) and one in Africa (Gabon). The total cost of projects benefiting indigenous peoples amounted to $118.3 million. It is expected that the projects will benefit approximately 90,000 indigenous households. A detailed list of approved projects is provided in the annex to the present report.

16. Under the IFAD grant portfolio, three technical assistance grants were approved in favour of organizations supporting indigenous peoples for a total amount of $1.75 million (for further information, see the annex to the present

[2] In 2007, IFAD, the European Commission, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, the Government of Luxembourg, the Ministry of Finance and Cooperation of the Government of Spain, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund launched the Financing Facility for Remittances, a financing initiative, that is part of the new programme on promoting innovative migrant remittance systems, with the objectives of increasing the benefits of remittances and improving economic opportunities for poor rural people.

report). One grant will be implemented in Latin America and two will be implemented globally.

17. As mentioned above, IFAD managed for the first time the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, approving 30 projects in 24 countries, for a total amount of $603,000 (see annex).

18. In September 2007, IFAD was invited to participate in the world gathering of nomadic and transhuman pastoralists, held in Spain. The Fund sponsored the participation of the Mauritanian delegation. In December 2007, as a follow-up to the gathering, IFAD approved a grant in the amount of $60,000 to support the capacity-building of mobile indigenous peoples communities and to advocate their cause among non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples organizations worldwide and the Permanent Forum. The grant will be implemented by the standing committee of the Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation and in cooperation with the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A delegation of the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples is expected to participate at the seventh session of the Permanent Forum, in April 2008.

19. During the course of 2007, IFAD commissioned a study to be conducted by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) South Asia on the theme "Tribal women: empowerment through mutual learning and sharing experiences". The study will focus on issues related to the equality and dignity of tribal women and their struggles to overcome poverty and patriarchy. It will promote sustainability through capacity-building in research and analysis on aspects affecting tribal women as well as institutionalization in UNIFEM South Asia of tribal women's concerns.

20. At the 2006 Inter-Agency Support Group meeting, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Inter-American Development Bank, IFAD and UNDP were requested to work jointly to ensure harmonization of best practices in community participatory mapping. More specifically, IFAD was requested to take the lead in the endeavour. In 2007, the Fund approved a grant in the amount of $197,763 for a project to support the spread of good practices in generating, managing, analysing and communicating spatial information. The grant will be managed by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation. The Centre will be the lead agency in this multiagency initiative, which will build on a consolidated network of professionals and practitioners and related organizations operating within developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The project will ensure that careful, user-driven participatory mapping practice evolves and spreads in an ethically conscious manner. The proposed grant will ensure the production of multilingual, multimedia training kits and modules regarding best practices in participatory community mapping, which will not only allow for harmonization but will also facilitate broad uptake of these practices worldwide.

21. During 2007, IFAD granted the executive secretariat of the Andrés Bello Agreement $1.5 million for the regional programme in support of rural populations of African descent in Latin America. Over a four-year period, the grant programme will aim at increasing the capacity of Afro-Latino organizations to mobilize and manage resources and at widening international and private donor knowledge of the position and potential of Afro-Latino populations. The programme's main

components include the enhancement of social assets and promotion of capacities, and studies, learning and knowledge-sharing.

Other activities

22. In May 2007, a one-day workshop to discuss the findings of the assessment of the achievements of the First International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples in Asia was organized by the Fund in cooperation with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and Tebtebba Foundation. With IFAD funding support through a regional grant, the Centre and the Tebtebba Foundation conducted the assessment covering 10 countries in Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. The assessment documented not only changes made within the United Nations system but also analysed the extent to which proclamations at the international level translated into policy and programmatic changes at the national level. There was unanimous agreement that the most successful aspects of the Decade were the increased solidarity among indigenous people around the world and the strength that different groups derived from that solidarity. The Decade saw the formation of several new indigenous peoples organizations and networks, an indicator of that confidence and solidarity. Nevertheless, one of the most striking findings of the assessment was the extremely low level of awareness of the Decade among common indigenous people. Much of the awareness of the Decade was confined to indigenous activists who had the opportunity to participate in meetings at the international level. The assessment also found that, within the enhanced solidarity among indigenous people, divisions and fragmentations could be found at the regional, national and local levels between and among indigenous communities and networks. The assessment provided a set of recommendations for the United Nations and other international agencies, and for States.

23. In October 2007, the President of IFAD was invited to deliver a speech on reaching indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities in development programmes during the international conference on taking action for the world's poor and hungry people, organized by the Chinese State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development and the International Food Policy Research Institute. A paper on policies and lessons for reaching indigenous peoples in development programmes was prepared by the Fund. The paper addressed the marginalization, vulnerability and disempowerment of indigenous peoples and suggested that development policies and programmes build on an approach that respected the rights of ethnic minorities and tribal and indigenous peoples in line with the recent United Nations Declaration, which affirmed the cultural, economic, political and civil rights of those groups and of individuals belonging to them.[3]

24. During the course of the year, the IFAD Latin America and Caribbean Division conducted a desk review of its portfolio related to indigenous peoples. The analysis aimed at providing a characterization of interventions related to indigenous peoples, with special emphasis on assessing the different approaches and instruments adopted by the Division in projects and programmes concerning indigenous peoples. The study assessed that current indigenous-related loans finance 38 per cent of ongoing

[3] Lennart Bâge. 2007. — "Policies and lessons for reaching indigenous peoples in development programmes". *2020 Focus Brief on the World's Poor and Hungry People.*

projects and comprise about 22 per cent of the current lending portfolio, a good indicator of the significance of indigenous peoples to the interventions in the region. In terms of regional and country grants, the figures showed that indigenous-related activities constituted 9 per cent of ongoing grants and 7.5 per cent of the grant portfolio. The analysis highlighted the emphasis of the overall portfolio on natural resources management and support for access to markets. The review identified margins for improvement in areas related to: (a) securing access to land and territories; (b) including decentralized institutions in natural resources management activities; (c) integrating traditional knowledge systems and their governance into sustainable management of resources; and (d) enhancing partnerships with indigenous peoples organizations, through deeper involvement and more systematic consultations. The review also indicated opportunities for increasing the volume of regional and subregional programmes related to indigenous peoples. In addition, the study highlighted the opportunities for IFAD to play a greater role in policy dialogue and advocacy work, in order to make the country strategic opportunity programmes and other strategic tools more relevant to indigenous peoples perspectives.

III. Conferences and other meetings on indigenous peoples issues to be hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development in 2008

25. In 2008, IFAD will continue managing the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility and is expecting to announce the second call for grant proposals in March 2008.

26. In the process of developing its principles of engagement with indigenous peoples, during the course of 2008 the Fund will hold several consultations within IFAD and with indigenous peoples organizations.

27. Under the IFAD innovation mainstreaming initiative project on learning and building upon the knowledge base of the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, the Fund expects to hold two workshops, one each in Asia and Latin America, with the participation of the 2007 grant recipients, staff of IFAD-funded projects and international indigenous leaders. In the workshops a combined participatory exercise will be carried out, including self-assessment on project implementation by Fund-funded grants and their contextualization within the ongoing IFAD operations in the respective countries. The workshops will also be an occasion for networking, capacity-building and awareness promotion on national and international policies regarding indigenous peoples issues.

28. The Fund welcomed the decision of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to focus its seventh session on the theme "Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges". The Fund values the enormous unrealized potential of indigenous peoples. With their vast wealth of knowledge about their environment, indigenous peoples can and should play a leading role in the global response to climate change. In that context, IFAD invited the Chair of the Permanent Forum to participate as a panellist at the round table on the theme "Climate change and the future of smallholder agriculture: how can rural poor people be a part of the solution to

climate change?", which will be organized during the 2008 IFAD Governing Council.

29. At the same occasion, IFAD will also host the exhibition on climate change and indigenous peoples, made available by the secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity and transferred to the Fund in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

30. The Fund will continue to support the Permanent Forum on agreed activities, for the effective implementation of the Forum's mandate and improvement of the lives of indigenous communities around the world.

IV. Work undertaken by the International Land Coalition in 2007

Review of the International Land Coalition on its Community Empowerment Facility

31. In the period 2001 to 2007, the International Land Coalition,[4] hosted and financed by IFAD under its community empowerment facility programme, contributed $682,000 for 11 projects directly related to securing land rights for indigenous peoples. In 2007, the International Land Coalition secretariat conducted a desk review analysis on the projects funded through its community empowerment facility, which contributes to the International Land Coalition promotion of the capacities of land-poor organizations to achieve greater access to land. Around 22 per cent of its successful applications were made by organizations primarily representing indigenous peoples. The evaluation of the implemented activities showed the fruitfulness of successful cooperation between indigenous and non-indigenous neighbours in advancing a land agenda and the value for non-indigenous communities of tools developed by indigenous peoples organizations for promoting more secure land rights. The review highlighted that among the most significant lessons learned for future actions a rights-based approach might be the most useful strategy for promoting the land rights of indigenous peoples and that the success of working across the boundaries of indigenous and non-indigenous poor meant complementing that approach with a needs-based approach.

[4] The International Land Coalition is hosted and financed by IFAD.

Annex

Projects in support of indigenous peoples financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development: 2007

A. Loans

Regions/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area (including target group)*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*	*Direct beneficiaries*
Asia						
Cambodia	Rural livelihoods improvement project in Kratie, Preah Vihear and Ratanakiri	**Main** Improve the livelihoods of the rural poor **Specific** Sustainable impact on agricultural development achieved in the targeted communes in the three provinces	**Project area** Provinces of Kratie, Preah Vihear and Ratanakiri **Target group** Particularly disadvantaged subgroups: (a) Poor households with little land (b) Landless households (c) Woman-headed households with young children and/or many dependants (d) Indigenous/ethnic minority households	(a) Livelihood improvement (b) Support for decentralization and deconcentration in agriculture	**Total cost** 11.51 million **Estimated total cost benefiting indigenous peoples** 8.63 million, including IFAD loan of 7.14 million	About 22,600 poor households (38 per cent of the population of the project area) 84 poor communes in 16 districts in the three project provinces
China	Inner Mongolia autonomous region: rural advancement programme	**Main** Programme aims to reduce the incidence of poverty in the target villages in a sustainable and gender-equitable way by establishing enhanced access to information, technology, rural financial services and markets	**Project area** Territory of the Ulanqab prefecture **Target group** Absolute poor and low-income households; particular emphasis is placed on women-headed households	(a) Production and market access (including agricultural and livestock development, organic farming) (b) Strategic support to	**Total cost** 70.49 million **Estimated[a] total cost benefiting ethnic minorities** 2.43 million, including	The programme has the potential to reach an estimated 125,000 households in 722 villages in nine counties

Regions/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area (including target group)*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*	*Direct beneficiaries*
				women (village-based women's microcredit groups and township-based women's associations) (c) Rural financial services through strengthening rural credit cooperatives and mainstreaming successful microcredit schemes (d) Programme management	IFAD loan of 1.03 million	In the targeted Ulanqab prefecture, Han Chinese represent 96.55 per cent of the population, Mongolian 2.6 per cent and other ethnic minorities less than 1 per cent (targeted ethnic minorities represent around 3.45 per cent)
Nepal	Poverty alleviation fund project: phase II	**Main** Improve living conditions, livelihoods and empowerment among the rural poor, with particular attention to groups that have been marginalized because of gender, ethnicity, caste or location	**Project area** National **Target group** Poor and socially disadvantaged community members, including women, dalits and indigenous peoples (Janajatis) members and beneficiaries, including in positions of responsibility	(a) Small-scale village and community infrastructure (27 per cent) (b) Income generation projects targeted at the poorest and most excluded groups (31 per cent) (c) Innovations and special programmes (8 per cent)	**Total cost** 113 million **Estimated total cost benefiting indigenous peoples** 6.78 million, including IFAD grant of 0.24 million	Women, dalits (belonging to low castes) and indigenous peoples (around 6 per cent)

Regions/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area (including target group)*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*	*Direct beneficiaries*
				(d) Capacity-building (28 per cent) and (e) Administration of Poverty Alleviation Fund project: phase II (6 per cent)		
Philippines	**Second Cordillera highland agricultural resource management project**	**Main** **Reduce the poverty and improve the livelihoods of poor rural women and men in indigenous communities in the upland areas of the Cordillera Administrative Region** **Specific** **(a) Increase the household income of poor farmers through sustainable agricultural development** **(b) Enhance the quality of life of targeted communities by improving land tenure security, food security and watershed conservation**	**Project area** **Cordillera administrative region** **Target group** **Indigenous farming communities in 37 municipalities and 170 villages (*barangays*) in six provinces of the Cordillera administrative region (Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga and Mountain Province)**	**(a) Community mobilization, participatory planning of investments, and land titling** **(b) Community watershed conservation (including forest management and agroforestry development)** **(c) Agricultural and agribusiness development and promotion of income-generating activities** **(d) Rural infrastructure development** **(e) Project management and coordination**	**Total cost** **66.4 million** **Estimated total cost benefiting indigenous peoples** **66.4 million, including IFAD loan of 26.56 million**	**Total beneficiaries** **6,270 households** **All targeted beneficiaries living in the Cordillera are indigenous peoples**

Regions/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area (including target group)*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*	*Direct beneficiaries*
Viet Nam	Developing business with the rural poor programme	**Main** Achieve sustainable and equitable reduction in rural poverty **Specific** Enable rural poor to benefit from improved market participation	**Project area** Ben Tre and Cao Bang Provinces **Target group** Rural households in Ben Tre and Cao Bang Provinces with small land holdings and limited productive assets; particular emphasis on landless labourers, ethnic minorities and rural women in Ben Tre Province, benefiting microenterprises that have commercial links with the target group	(a) Improvement of business and investment environment (b) Rural business development services (c) Expansion of market access for the rural poor (d) Programme management	**Total cost** 50.5 million **Estimated total cost benefiting indigenous peoples** 26.56 million, including IFAD loan of 18.67 million	**Total beneficiaries** 99,600 households **Ethnic minorities in Cao Bang Province** 55,200 households (representing 52.6 per cent of beneficiaries)
Latin America and the Caribbean						
El Salvador	Rural development and modernization project for the central and paracentral regions	**Main** Significantly reduce poverty in target areas **Specific** (a) Development of the human and social capital resource base (b) Transformation of the subsistence agricultural and non-agricultural activities	**Project area** Central and paracentral regions **Target group** (a) Inhabitants of poor communities involved in small-scale family agriculture for consumption and/or local markets	(a) Human and social capital development (10 per cent of the base cost) (b) Sustainable production and the rehabilitation and management of natural resources (23 per cent)	**Total cost** 20.1 million **Estimated total cost benefiting indigenous peoples** 4.02 million, including IFAD loan of 2.91 million	Direct project beneficiaries have been estimated at 33,000 people; and indirect beneficiaries at 41,600. 20 per cent of beneficiaries are indigenous peoples

Regions/country	Project title or description	Project objective	Project area (including target group)	Project components	Project cost (in United States dollars)	Direct beneficiaries
		into profitable, market-oriented rural businesses and microenterprises for local and external markets (c) Rehabilitation of environmentally deteriorated areas through rational management of natural resources and institutionalization of territorial planning in selected microwatersheds	(b) Landless farmers and agricultural labourers (c) Owners of small businesses and microentrepreneurs (agricultural and non-agricultural) (d) Rural women and youth (e) Marginalized populations with pronounced indigenous cultural traditions	(c) Business and rural micro-enterprise development (22 per cent) (d) rural financial services (25 per cent) (e) Project coordination and institutional strengthening for rural development (20 per cent)		
Guyana	Rural enterprise and agricultural development project	**Main** (a) Increase the market opportunities available to small rural producers (including women) (b) Increase rural people's capacity to produce and market non-traditional products efficiently and effectively and to develop small-scale enterprises (c) Strengthen the rural services available to small producers (d) Increase access to financial and other capital services	**Project area** Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 **Target group** Mainly rural people, farmers and operators of micro and small-scale enterprises, and poor or extremely poor rural men and women operators of micro and small enterprises, in particular female-headed households, youth and Amerindian communities	(a) Market and rural enterprise development (42 per cent of the total base costs) and (b) Human and social capital strengthening (35 per cent) Project coordination accounts for 23 per cent of total base costs	**Total cost** 6.93 million **Estimated total cost benefiting indigenous peoples** 1.1 million, including IFAD loan and grant of 0.92 million	5,200 rural households (Around 20,800 people, 53 per cent of whom will be men and 47 per cent women) In the targeted regions, the population is composed of individuals of East Indian origin (50 per cent), and of African origin (19 per cent),

Regions/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area (including target group)*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*	*Direct beneficiaries*
		(e) Build human and social capacity at the community level				Amerindians (16 per cent), mixed (14 per cent) and other ethnic minorities (including white and Chinese)
Honduras	Project for enhancing the rural economic competitiveness of Yoro	**Main** Significantly reduce poverty conditions affecting the rural population of Yoro department **Specific** Improve organizational capacity and territorial management practices as well as market positioning of products of rural poor and indigenous groups	**Project area** Department of Yoro (central Honduras) **Target group** Small-scale farmers and their organizations in rural areas of Yoro as well as women, youths, landless peasants and an indigenous group	(a) Organizational development and territorial management (b) Market insertion and positioning (c) Project management and administration ($2.6 million base cost)	**Total cost** 13.88 million **Estimated total cost benefiting indigenous peoples** 1.7 million, including IFAD loan of 0.9 million	8,000 direct beneficiary households, including 1,000 indigenous households (Tolupanes)
Peru	Project for strengthening assets, markets and rural development policies in the northern highlands (Sierra Norte)	**Main** Increase and/or add value to the human, social, natural, physical and financial assets of rural, poor, small-scale producers and entrepreneurs, in particular women and youth **Specific** (a) Strengthen the capacity of local institutions	**Project area** Four regions in the northern highlands: five provinces in the highlands of La Libertad, three in Cajamarca, three in the Amazonas region and two districts in Ferreñafe Province in Lambayeque region	(a) Management of natural resources and value of physical assets (b) Development of business initiatives and strengthening of financial assets (c) Strengthening of territorial	**Total cost** 21.9 million **Estimated total cost benefiting indigenous peoples** Around 0.5 million, including IFAD loan of 0.33 million	20,000 households, around 2 per cent of which are Quechua households; benefiting of a pilot initiative for rural development with cultural identity in Lambayeque region

Regions/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area (including target group)*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*	*Direct beneficiaries*
		(b) Strengthen the organizations of rural poor (c) Increase the financial assets of rural poor and (d) Further social and cultural capital	**Target group** Poor or extremely poor rural households, whose income is less than $1,040 per capita and who inhabit districts having a Human Development Index of less than 0.6	development and knowledge management (d) Project management and administration In the Lambayeque region, a pilot initiative will address rural development in terms of cultural identity		
Africa						
Gabon	Agricultural and rural development project	**Main** Help to reduce rural poverty in the target area by enhancing access of the rural poor to value chains with market potential **Specific** (a) Develop value chains (for banana, cassava and peanuts) with significant market potential to the benefit of the target groups (b) Strengthen the capacity of smallholders and smallholder organizations involved in those value chains	**Project area** 160 villages (one third of the villages in Woleu-Ntem Province) **Target group** Vulnerable groups, particularly women, young people, elderly people and Pygmies	(a) Promotion of agricultural value chains with market potential (57.3 per cent of project loan) (b) Strengthening of the capacity of various value chain participants (25.5 per cent) (c) Coordination, monitoring and evaluation (17.1 per cent)	**Total cost** 8.6 million **Estimated total cost benefiting Pygmies** 0.21 million, including IFAD loan of 0.14 million	The project will target 28,000 smallholder farmers Indirect beneficiaries: around 70,000 people Targeted Pygmies: 700 (one single village)

Regions/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area (including target group)*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*	*Direct beneficiaries*
		(c) Strengthen the capacity of the providers of services to rural communities				

[a] This figure is an estimate based on the proportion of ethnic minorities living in the area of intervention.

B. Grants

Intervention area	*Title/activity*	*Amount of IFAD grant (in United States dollars)*
Global	Support the spread of good practices in generating, managing, analysing and communicating spatial information	199 763
	Strengthening the world alliance of mobile indigenous peoples	60 000
Regional (Latin America and the Caribbean)	Regional programme in support of rural populations of African descent in Latin America	1 500 000
Total		**1 759 763**

C. Grants under the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility

Region/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*
Asia					
Bangladesh	Livelihood security of Jumia (swidden people) bringing diversification in cultivation	Improve the socio-economic situation of the indigenous peoples beneficiaries	Communities of the Bandarban Hill district, in the Chittagong Hills Tract, Bangladesh (200 Jhumias (swidden people))	Capacity-building to establish the formation of farmer groups at the village level	26 900
Cambodia	District level networking of Kui communities in northern Cambodia for livelihoods development	Improve the management of natural resources	Kui communities of the Chhep, Chey Sen, Rovieng, Tbeng Meanchey and Choam Khsan districts, Preah Vihear Province and Sandan and Prasath Ballang districts, Kompong Thom Province	Implementation of the district-level networking of Kui communities in northern Cambodia for livelihoods development project The project will assist the indigenous communities benefiting from improved management of natural resources. Capacity-building of Kui women	21 800
India	Indigenous Jenukuruba community empowerment and natural farming for sustainable livelihood	Achieve food security by developing agricultural land, while building critical awareness on tribal issues to plan for rebuilding indigenous cultural identities and forest life	Jenukuruba community of the Mysore district in Karnataka (300 families)	(a) Training on developing agricultural land, planting fruit and fodder trees and adopting natural methods of cultivations (b) Capacity-building for women to become promoters and advocates of tribal cultural identity	22 000
	Revival and revitalization of the historical heritage and cultural identity of the Santals in Jharkhand and adjacent State of West Bengal	Create critical awareness on Adivasi culture and history among Adivasi and non-Adivasi communities and capacitate villagers to critically analyse and identify their own historical and cultural heritage	Santal tribal communities of the states of Jharkhand and West Bengal	Capacity-building Research on Adivasi historical and cultural heritage Development of print media and audio-visual/electronic media Campaign on cultural and historical heritage	25 500

Region/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*
	Participatory learning, institutional design and collective action	Support indigenous peoples efforts to come together in participatory learning, institutional design and collective action	Oraon tribe of the four districts of northern Chhattisgarh in central India	Capacity-building for advocacy and policy dialogue	25 000
Mongolia	Improved livelihood of Tsaatan through biotechnological methods	Proposal aims at improving the health of the beneficiaries	44 families of Tsaatan community from the district of Tsagaannnuur of the Province of Khuvsgul (representing the southernmost pure nomadic reindeer culture in the world)	Selection target: households and animals, herder group formation, training, procurement delivery, artificial insemination, periodic medical check-ups and group self-monitoring	17 900
Philippines	Capacity-building for indigenous communities through alternative health-care delivery systems	Using appropriate indigenous knowledge as a starting point, the project aims at integrating traditional knowledge with practices of western medicine	Indigenous communities in the municipality of Kasibu, covering Didipio, Muta and Malabing valleys, Nueva Vizcaya Province	Empowerment of indigenous communities Provision of basic health services and health skills development training	25 000
	Study on the giant earthworm and its impact on the survival of the Cordillera rice terraces	Study indigenous and alternative pest management systems to control giant earthworm infestations, save the rice terraces from destruction, increase rice production and strengthen cultural bonding of the people to their ancestral domains	Indigenous peasants of the Cordillera region	Research and documentation Laboratory and chemical analysis of botanical resources Regional workshop for the production of an earthworm management resource kit	22 800
Solomon Islands	Increasing community resilience to natural disasters through use of traditional coping strategies on the Weather Coast Guadalcanal communities in the Solomon Islands	Promote the integration and documentation of indigenous knowledge and practices in disaster risk reduction by collecting and establishing baseline data	Babanakira and Kolina indigenous groups	Community awareness-raising and training workshops, fact-finding consultative sessions and interviews with the indigenous communities	19 000
Viet Nam	Improving household income by developing and preserving Bac Kan seedless kaki persimmon	Contribute to the sustainable socio-economic development of the addressed indigenous peoples	Indigenous farming communities in the district of Cho Don, Bac Kan Province	Training in biodiversity and management, capacity-building in the communities and among local persimmon producers	20 000

Region/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*
Latin America and the Caribbean					
Argentina	Land management by the indigenous communities of North-East Salta	Provide support to "Consejo de Organizaciones Wichi"	Wichi Indigenous communities in the North-East of Salta Province	Mapping of the territories of beneficiaries' population with Geographic Information System technology training	16 500
Bolivia	Publicizing of the international agreements and conventions upholding the rights of indigenous peoples and defending women's rights	Project aims at increasing the awareness of the beneficiaries on indigenous peoples' rights, at strengthening their capacities and informing them of international agreements subscribed by the Government in favour of indigenous peoples' and women's rights	Indigenous peoples and those of African descent (mainly women) Indigenous communities of Omasuyos, Ingavi, Los Andes, Pacajes, Caranavi, Manco Cápac, Murillo, Aroma, Camacho, Carabuco, Nor Yungas, Loayza, Muñecas, Inquisivi, Larecaja, Tomás Barrón districts	Capacity-building (Project's design and implementation carried out by Aymara women)	15 000
	Improving the standard of living of Aymara women in Los Andes province through the rearing of native hens	Diversify beneficiaries' income and food consumption	120 Aymara women of six different Aymara communities, Los Andes province	Technical assistance Training	20 000
Chile	Agricultural, social and cultural analysis of indigenous communities in Río negro and pre-feasibility study for declaration of an indigenous development area	Strengthen policy dialogue through capacity-building	Mapuche populations	Realization of a statistical survey as tool for empowerment in policy dialogue Capacity-building to empower the communities in decision-making processes	15 000
Colombia	Greater community oversight to enable the Nasa people of Sa'th Tama Kiwe to control the land	Strengthen cultural identity by tracing the social and territorial mapping of the communities/territories using Geographic Information System methodology	Indigenous populations of the Pioya and Pueblo Nuevo communities (Resguardos), in the ancestral territory of the Nasa nation	Participatory mapping (Geographic Information System)	12 400
Ecuador	"Nukanchik Kausay", "nuestra vida"	Increase the sustainability of natural resources and territorial management	Kichwa populations	Training in sustainable natural resource and territorial management Training in project design	20 000

Region/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*
El Salvador	Awakening the woman as goddess, using ancestral textiles	Revive the knowledge of indigenous women weavers who have lost contact with their own culture and tradition	Indigenous women in the Montanona area	Capacity-building in organization, training and understanding of the cosmovision Product diversification Assessment of "maguey" (local crop in danger of extinction) Institutional support	16 200
Guatemala	Planting agroforestry systems with community representatives from microregional associations	Improve the sustainability of natural resources management, increasing income sources for the targeted beneficiaries	Indigenous peoples members of microregional associations living in the seven microregions in Ixcán municipality, El Quiché department	Reforestation and cultivation of fruit trees Training in forestry management	20 000
	Inspection and monitoring of agrarian tribunals and cadastral mapping. One step in the building of agrarian institutions	Enhance secure access to land for the targeted beneficiaries	Maya populations	Capacity-building programme Training of cadastral monitors	20 000
Guyana	Indigenous rights capacity-building for indigenous communities in Guyana	Advocate the protection of beneficiaries' rights at the community level through policy and legislative changes and implementation	Indigenous people of South Cummingsburg, Georgetown	Training in the use of international legislation	20 000
Honduras	Bringing Lencas women into the business development process by encouraging rural banks and rural agricultural businesses and microenterprises	Create and strengthen the entrepreneurial capacities of Lencas women living in poverty	3,528 poor indigenous Lencas women, members of the 121 grass-roots National Council of Indigenous Lencas Women of Honduras in the district of La Paz	Creation and strengthening of local banking, credit agencies, agribusiness enterprises and other non-agricultural entrepreneurial initiatives	15 000
Mexico	Consolidation of the RITA SC tour operator "Establishment, Promotion, Distribution and Marketing". An alternative for the sale and marketing of admission tickets to the nature reserves of the 24 areas of community-held land making up RITA SC	Increase beneficiaries' income through the promotion of ecotourism and preserve the natural resources and ancestral culture of indigenous populations	Indigenous groups in the State of Quintana Roo	Establishment and consolidation of a network of indigenous tour operators to promote ecotourism	20 000

Region/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*
Nicaragua	Rehabilitation of the production of staple grains in nine communities of the territory of Mayangna Sauni Arung Ka	Enhance sustainable agricultural practices Improve nutrition and incomes of families	9 Mayangna communities located in the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve	Training Procurement delivery Technical assistance in agriculture	22 800
Panama	Recovering the traditional knowledge of Kuna women	Contribute to recover and protect biodiversity and indigenous traditional knowledge Strengthen local resources and capacities in the collection, cultivation, and interchange of native seeds Improve incomes of women and families Strengthen and promote women's political participation in decision-making processes	6 indigenous Kuna communities in the Comarca Kuna Yala (Panama) and the indigenous women's network "Red de Mujeres Indígenas sobre Biodiversidad"	Training and capacity-building to recover and strengthen traditional art techniques in producing handicrafts Marketing of agricultural products in community markets and sale of handicrafts to tourists	20 000
Peru	Strengthening the indigenous rights of Awajun women: restoring their cultural identity rights through the rediscovery and production of their handicrafts	Develop and implement a capacity-building programme on indigenous peoples' rights within the framework of Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization and empower women for handicraft production	14 Awajun communities	Awareness-building campaign and capacity-building on indigenous peoples rights Establishment of a network for the promotion and training on cultural rights Awareness-raising campaign and capacity-building on women's handicraft production (pottery and weaving) Implementation of a communal laboratory for handicraft production managed by women Capacity-building programme on intellectual property rights and commercialization	22 400

Region/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*
	Recovering traditional know-how on biodiversity relating to food and medicine in Quechua and Ashanika communities in Peru	Give Quechua and Ashanika communities and organizations, including FECMA and CECONSEC, the capacity to protect their traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights	Quechua and Ashanika	Capacity-building workshops on traditional knowledge Documenting and publishing the results of traditional knowledge screening Carrying out of the necessary legal procedures to obtain legal protection of their intellectual property rights	20 000
Africa					
Cameroon	Reducing the food dependence and improving the income of five Baka groups in the Yokadouma department	Reduce food aid dependence and ameliorate beneficiaries' livelihoods	Baka communities, department of Yokadouma, Eastern Cameroon	Training in rehabilitation of cocoa and cassava root plantations Training on microentrepreneurial management	20 000
Niger	Capacity reinforcement and affirming of the traditional cultural knowledge of the Peuls Woodabee Pastoralist community	Reinforce the capacities of women's organizations, within the nomad population of the Woodabee	20 nomad organizations, including Woodabee, Fulbe and Mbororo, of the region of Zinder	Capacity-building Training on milk product conservation	24 000
Kenya	Rehabilitation and protection of Kireita forest	Create rehabilitation and sustainable management of Kireita forest and improvement of community livelihoods	Lari community of the Kiambu district in Kenya	Community-awareness creation on sustainable conservation and the new forest laws and policies, planting of 30 hectares of degraded sections of the forest with indigenous tree species, spot weeding of the planted seedlings/trees and protection of the seedlings and forest in general	19 300
Uganda	Local chicken rearing and multiplication	Increase income of beneficiaries through chicken rearing and multiplication	Acholi people of Kitgum, Pader and Gulu	Training in market information management (teamwork through coordinated activities while providing marketing information by linking indigenous peoples to buyers	19 200

Region/country	*Project title or description*	*Project objective*	*Project area*	*Project components*	*Project cost (in United States dollars)*
				Promotion of collective marketing for higher bargaining powers and exploitation of economies of scale by buyers	

D. Results-based country strategic opportunity programmes approved in 2007 addressing indigenous peoples issues

Country	*Strategic objectives*
Honduras	**1: Improve income-generating opportunities for the rural poor (on- and off-farm), with special attention to women** **2: Strengthen the organizational capacities and bargaining power of the organizations of the rural poor (IFAD will also assist indigenous communities in articulating their specific concerns with public and private entities when pursuing social investments and other benefits for their communities)** **The fulfilment of both strategic objectives requires a special focus on indigenous groups. This is not only because of their extreme poverty, but also because those groups can only be incorporated into the development process by recognizing their distinct culture and the contribution that that culture can make to development in general.** **See http://www.ifad.org/gbdocs/eb/90/e/EB-2007-90-R-8.pdf.**
Panama	**1: Increase income opportunities for the rural poor and reducing ethnic and gender-based inequalities through improved access to productive support services, infrastructure and markets** **2: Improve local government and social empowerment, with special attention to indigenous and ethnic groups** **See http://www.ifad.org/gbdocs/eb/91/e/EB-2007-91-R-15.pdf.**
Cambodia	**1: Seek sustainable improvement of the livelihoods of rural poor men and women in the project areas through community empowerment, productivity improvement and improved access to assets, productive resources, rural services, rural infrastructure and markets. IFAD assistance will also support a focus on the needs of ethnic minority communities and advocacy on behalf of indigenous peoples** **In addition, the IFAD target group will include indigenous ethnic minority communities.** **See http://www.ifad.org/gbdocs/eb/92/e/EB-2007-92-R-13.pdf and http://www.ifad.org/gbdocs/eb/92/e/EB-2007-92-R-13-Corr-1.pdf.**

Country	*Strategic objectives*
Bolivia	2: Sustainable management of natural resources in defined territorial areas, with due regard for sociocultural issues. A strategic intervention in this regard aims at overcoming the limitations present in the Bolivian lowlands, where there is a predominantly indigenous rural population living in extreme poverty and vulnerability, but possessing considerable knowledge and natural resources, which could enable them to organize and implement processes conducive to territorial development and social inclusion. See http://www.ifad.org/gbdocs/eb/92/e/EB-2007-92-R-14.pdf and http://www.ifad.org/gbdocs/eb/92/e/EB-2007-92-R-14-Corr-1.pdf.
Mexico	No specific mention in the strategic objectives, but indigenous peoples will be transversally addressed. See http://www.ifad.org/gbdocs/eb/92/e/EB-2007-92-R-15.pdf.
Burkina Faso	Concerning strategic objective 2 (Enhancing decentralized governance of, and equitable access to, public goods, services and natural resources) the main risk relates to local natural resource management governance issues that are, to some extent, beyond Government and donor control (e.g. customary land tenure regimes preventing migrant households from attaining secure land rights). Furthermore, "customary land tenure rights" have been mentioned as a source of risk for strategic objective 2 (access to public goods). See http://www.ifad.org/gbdocs/eb/91/e/EB-2007-91-R-9.pdf.
Mauritania	The strategy affirms that access to land can be enhanced by taking into account customary laws while working with local communities. In terms of the alleviation of the access problems faced by the rural poor to land tenure security, the successful negotiated land agreement (Entente foncière), a precondition for the effectiveness of the Maghama I project that took two years of negotiations and was eventually signed between land owners and poor farmers, demonstrates the importance of working through local communities and through customary laws governing community assets. See http://www.ifad.org/gbdocs/eb/91/e/EB-2007-91-R-11.pdf.
Kenya	The strategy raises the risk of weak measures against the felling of indigenous trees by charcoal burners and traders. It raises also the threat of political interference and ethnic conflict in land tenure issues. See http://www.ifad.org/gbdocs/eb/91/e/EB-2007-91-R-12.pdf.

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Implementation of the recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

United Nations Development Programme

Summary

The present report highlights initiatives and activities undertaken with reference to indigenous peoples by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2007, with special focus on the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its sixth session. The adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has provided a fresh impetus to UNDP engagement with indigenous peoples. Examples of UNDP initiatives in this area are the Global Human Rights Strengthening Programme and the UNDP-Global Environment Facility (GEF) Community-based Adaptation (CBA) project. The UNDP *Human Development Report 2007/2008* states that, in addressing climate change, governance structures for overseeing shared goals have to extend beyond conservation and emissions targets to environmental and human development concerns, including respect for the human rights of indigenous peoples. The UNDP Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific (RIPP) has organized community and regional dialogues on the special theme of the seventh session: "Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges".

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In 2007, UNDP continued to support the establishment of participatory mechanisms for indigenous peoples, such as the GEF Small Grants Programme on participatory video and the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Council to the United Nations country team in Bolivia. UNDP is collaborating closely with the United Nations system through the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Indigenous Issues to mainstream indigenous peoples' issues in mechanisms and processes at the country level. UNDP welcomes the guidance of the Permanent Forum, particularly regarding its contribution towards the full realization of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in accordance with articles 41 and 42 thereof.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at its sixth session and at previous sessions. It also provides details of activities, projects and programmes undertaken by UNDP in 2007 that are relevant to the work of the Permanent Forum.

2. On the occasion of the observance of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, on 9 August 2007, the UNDP Administrator recognized the tireless efforts of indigenous peoples to maintain their distinctive cultures, socio-political systems and identity. He also reaffirmed the commitment of UNDP to supporting those efforts within the framework of human development, the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005-2014) and the (then draft) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

3. The UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, as updated pursuant to decision 2007/32, adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund at its second regular session 2007 on 5 October 2007,[1] highlights the six fundamental values affirmed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] as being necessary for sustainable human development: equality, solidarity, freedom, shared responsibility, tolerance and respect for nature. In this context, UNDP supports Governments in the identification of effective interventions strengthening participation by the poorest social sectors, as well as by women, youth, persons living with disabilities, and indigenous people. Low or eroding civic participation is of concern for many countries, raising questions about public confidence and government legitimacy. Support to mobilize civic engagement among these groups is a basic foundation for strengthening their access to the policymaking process.

II. Response to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues addressed to the United Nations Development Programme

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum at its sixth session

4. At its sixth session, the Permanent Forum commended the establishment and achievements of the Regional Indigenous Peoples' Programme of UNDP in Asia, and called on UNDP to ensure that the funding of that Programme would be increased and that similar programmes would be set up in other regions.[3]

5. In response to a demand for targeted interventions at the regional level, UNDP had launched the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific (RIPP)[4] in September 2004. The Regional Initiative, present

[1] See DP/2008/2.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43), chap. I, sect. B, para. 104.

[4] RIPP website: http://regionalcentrebangkok.undp.or.th/practices/governance/ripp.

in 10 countries, has completed its first phase of activities (2004-2007) and has gained recognition as a unique initiative within the United Nations system.

6. As part of its regional cooperation framework for the Asia-Pacific (2008-2011), UNDP has approved the second phase of the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development. The second phase will continue to be implemented by the UNDP Bangkok Regional Centre from 2008 to 2011 with a budget of $2,480,000 ($1,480,000 through UNDP core resources, an indication of the commitment of UNDP to indigenous issues).

7. The second phase of the Regional Initiative will continue to develop the capacity of Government officials and representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations to implement inclusive and participatory processes in policymaking and integrate indigenous peoples' rights into national policy and strategies. The second phase will also enhance national capacity to implement international norms and standards on anti-corruption and to fulfil indigenous peoples' human rights.

8. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the new regional Cooperation programme document for 2008-2011 (DP/RPD/RLA/1) emphasizes the high level of inequality in the region and the fact that "averages continue to dissimulate the plight of particularly vulnerable and excluded groups, especially women and children, youth, persons living with disabilities (PLW), afro-descendants and indigenous peoples". Inclusive participation towards democratic governance and civic engagement, in particular civic engagement of indigenous peoples, among other vulnerable groups, will constitute areas of key results.

9. With regard to the recommendation of the Permanent Forum to set up a regional programme in other regions similar to the UNDP Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific, further analysis will be necessary under the framework of the new regional cooperation framework in Latin America and the Caribbean and in connection with the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Indigenous Issues draft workplan. In some regions, initiating and strengthening national initiatives with indigenous peoples at the country level may prove more strategic than undertaking regional actions.

10. At its sixth session, the Permanent Forum welcomed the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development of UNDP and, in particular, the pilot projects on gathering disaggregated data in the Philippines and Nepal. The Permanent Forum also recommended that the Regional Indigenous Peoples' Programme continue that work in other countries.[5]

11. As a follow-up to the above recommendation, the UNDP Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific piloted in 2005 and 2006 two data-disaggregation projects. A pilot project, implemented by the Tebtebba Foundation, aimed at developing a methodology to generate baseline data and addressed the lack of accurate information gathering vis-à-vis indigenous peoples. Working in cooperation with the National Statistics Office of the Philippines, the project has developed new tools for survey and census collection, including indicators. The results are being presented as best practice and shared with other countries in the region.

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43), chap. I, sect. B, para. 125.

12. In cooperation with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific has also provided support to the non-governmental organization Nepal Tamang Ghedung in disaggregating data using information collected during the 2001 population census and other relevant surveys in Nepal. The project assembled, compiled and disaggregated data from published and unpublished records, files, survey reports and documents of Government bodies and departments and universities, and census data in the Central Bureau of Statistics. The data was disaggregated on the basis of ethnicity and included statistics on demography, education, health, migration, economy, human development, human rights and political status.

13. In Viet Nam, UNDP is implementing a project to support the National Target Programmes on Poverty Reduction in collecting baseline data for P135, a comprehensive ethnic minority database, with various disaggregated data. A key partner in this initiative is the Committee of Ethnic Minorities Affairs. Other implementing agencies include the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and the General Statistics Office. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of the Committee of Ethnic Minorities Affairs to manage budget support and organize consultations.

14. In India, UNDP supports human development reporting at the State and district levels. So far, 17 State Governments have prepared their State human development reports, including States with a high tribal/indigenous population, such as Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and the North-eastern States of Sikkim, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh. A key feature of these reports is the data analysis of human development indicators disaggregated by sex, population group and location.[6]

15. UNDP India is collaborating with the Indian Social Institute, a premier organization working predominantly on indigenous/tribal issues, in the preparation of a scoping paper on scheduled tribes for UNDP that will map their current status in human development, State-specific challenges for tribal populations, and the possible means to address them. The findings will be used to develop the country programme strategy.

B. Recommendations made by the Permanent Forum at previous sessions

16. At its fourth session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had recommended UNDP to strengthen its Human Rights Strengthening (HURIST) projects in all regions of the world.[7] The Global Human Rights Strengthening Programme provides the framework for UNDP support to the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples and will contribute to the realization of the standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex) (articles 41 and 42). UNDP has been supporting a number of Governments in strengthening national capacity to design and implement

[6] Further details are available at http://www.undp.org.in/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22&Itemid=9.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 23* (E/2005/43), chap. I, sect. B, para. 131.

a human rights-based approach to national development programmes and it will continue doing so.

17. The indigenous peoples' component of the Human Rights Strengthening projects, implemented in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guatemala, Ecuador and Bolivia, was finalized in 2007. Despite its short period of implementation, the project has contributed to (a) sensitizing the staff of the three country offices on the rights of indigenous peoples; (b) increasing knowledge and awareness among the general public of indigenous peoples' issues; (c) increasing capacities of State institutions to fulfil the rights of indigenous peoples; and (d) increasing the capacity and coordination of the United Nations system at the country level.

18. In Ecuador, the main objectives of Human Rights Strengthening have been accomplished through the establishment of the Indigenous Directorate of the Ombudsman Office, the issuance of innovative research studies with disaggregated data, and the production of toolkits and academic curriculum, as well as radio and video broadcasting. Discussions are still ongoing to identify the modalities for the creation of a dialogue mechanism that needs to take into consideration the fragmentation of the indigenous movement in the country. Human Rights Strengthening contributed to the activation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Intercultural Issues.

19. In Guatemala, a toolkit has been produced to guide development practitioners in all programme and project cycles in including indigenous peoples' issues and rights. Human Rights Strengthening helped to strengthen the participation of indigenous peoples through capacity development of their representatives in the existing development councils under the framework of the Programa Alianza con la Sociedad Civil (PASOC) project (see, additionally, paras. 58-60).

20. In Bolivia, the United Nations system established an Inter-Agency Working Group on Intercultural Issues (following the example of Ecuador) and an Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Council to the United Nations country team. The advisory council, created in December 2006, has facilitated the organization of meetings and consultations between indigenous peoples' representatives and delegates of United Nations organizations, including the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the right to food.

21. In 2007, one of the main activities of the Advisory Council has been to prepare for the participation of the representative(s) of Bolivia, including five representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations, in the sixth session of the Permanent Forum. In the evaluation workshop organized after the sixth session of the Forum, there was a consultation with organizations on proposed actions to follow up the recommendations addressed to the United Nations organizations with presence in Bolivia.

22. The UNDP Civil Society Division has created a workspace in the United Nations Development Group website at http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=514 for the sharing of experiences in establishing civil society and indigenous peoples' advisory mechanisms such as the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Council in Bolivia.

III. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed to the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations organizations or to the United Nations system

Capacity development

23. In partnership with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation and local indigenous organizations, the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific is helping to train indigenous women in decision-making skills. In September 2007, UNDP facilitated two workshops for indigenous women in north-eastern India and in Nepal. UNDP has produced *Indigenous Women and Decision Making: A Community Training Manual*,[8] which has been translated into Bengali, Burmese, Malaysian and Thai. The Indigenous Women in Decision-Making initiative has been identified as a good practice by the inter-agency Task Force on Indigenous Women. It has been included in a compilation on "Indigenous women and the United Nations system" launched at the sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

24. The Asian Young Leaders in Governance Programme, aimed at strengthening the skills of future leaders, has received support from the United Nations Democracy Fund for 2007-2008 and tremendous support from country offices, Governments, civil society, and other sectors in the region. In 2007, a subregional training session was organized for South-East Asia with training modules developed specifically for this Programme. Young indigenous fellows are now actively networking in the region.

25. In conjunction with the Committee of Ethnic Minorities Affairs in Viet Nam, UNDP has launched a project to develop the capacity of the Committee and subnational departments of ethnic minority agencies in the areas of ethnic minority policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. With a grant of $1.2 million, this five-year project, is scheduled to start at the beginning of 2008, pending receipt of formal approval by the Government. The collaboration of UNDP with the Committee began in 2007 with the development of their strategic policy for ethnic minority vocational training and job creation.

26. The project "Indigenous capacities in Latin America" was implemented by Centro de Estudios y Acción Social Panamaña (CEASPA), a Panama-based non-governmental organization. The project aimed at mapping and uploading information about indigenous peoples training programmes and materials into the Information and Learning Network for Latin America (ILN-LA), a knowledge management and capacity development network. Courses and materials are available at http://iln-la.nivel7.net/index.php?id=281. UNDP will transfer all materials into its new knowledge management platform, called C@PACIDADES, in March 2008.

27. The UNDP Virtual School for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the indigenous peoples' component of HURIST, has piloted an online course on indigenous peoples, democratic governance and human rights (www.escuelapnud.org) to strengthen the knowledge of United Nations staff, development practitioners, Government officials and university students on indigenous peoples' issues.

[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. 07.111.B.5.

Regional workshops on the special theme of the seventh session: "Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges"

28. At its sixth session, the Permanent Forum recommended United Nations agencies and programmes to convene regional workshops on the special theme of the seventh session. As a follow-up, the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific conducted analytical studies on natural resources systems and their interface with national laws and policies in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand. A regional synthesis paper draws on the country assessments to identify gaps in policy and practice, and key recommendations. The analytical studies are the first step in a broader, multidimensional strategy that includes the organization of community dialogues, a regional dialogue and a global dialogue, complemented by pilot projects on sustainable bioculturalism and adaptation to climate change. The results from the regional dialogue and community dialogues will inform the global dialogue at the seventh session of the Permanent Forum.

29. The Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific organized a regional dialogue on natural resources management in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in November 2007. More than 100 practitioners and policymakers from 13 countries in Asia shared their experiences of challenges and opportunities in respect of lands, natural resource management and cultural sustainability through the lens of climate change and adaptation. The event was organized in partnership with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation, the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, the Inter-Mountain Peoples' Association for Education and Culture in Thailand, and the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, with support from the Christensen Fund. Participants adopted a regional action plan for further work in this area.

30. Two community dialogues were organized in October and November 2007 in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh, and West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. There are four additional community dialogues planned for 2008-2009. The community dialogue in Indonesia highlighted the issue of unpredictable seasonal patterns which have caused serious damage to agriculture and livelihoods through severe flooding in the wet season and water shortages during the dry months. The extreme fluctuations in climate, marked since 1999, have affected human development negatively, and contributed to higher levels of poverty among indigenous communities. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the community dialogue focused on the traditional system of *jhum* (shifting) cultivation, and the impact of climate change on intensity, crop diversity and fallow management.

Indicators and disaggregated data on indigenous peoples

31. In 2005, UNDP Mexico partnered with the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples to develop a human development index for indigenous peoples. UNDP Mexico has identified 25 regions with native population, gathering statistical information for 32 federal entities and for 31 ethno-linguistic communities. In December 2007, UNDP provided support to the seventh meeting of the Inter-institutional Technical Commission for Indigenous Peoples in developing

the capacity of the Government in the use of socio-economic statistics to visualize indigenous peoples' issues and plan actions to eliminate existing gaps between indigenous and non-indigenous populations. The main input for this meeting was the System of Geographical Information by Ethnic-linguistic Condition, which had been published in 2006 under United Nations sponsorship.

32. The Guatemala National Human Development Report 2005 on ethnic-cultural diversity included disaggregated data and contributed to the use of similar data and methodology by the National Institute of Statistics. In 2007, UNDP Guatemala focused on disseminating publications on indigenous peoples' issues and generating dynamics for the analysis of these publications, with a particular focus on the Millennium Development Goals.

33. The analysis of the above-mentioned data has informed the assessment of the situation of indigenous peoples in the country. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2005-2008 for Guatemala explicitly contemplates the elimination of all forms of discrimination against indigenous peoples. The United Nations country team has foreseen that the next Framework, to be initiated shortly, will have a stronger focus on indigenous peoples' issues.

34. The UNDP Poverty Reduction Group MDG support cluster is currently preparing a "peer review" process for the existing MDG needs assessment models in connection with a new project entitled "A human rights-based approach review to the MDG needs assessment models". These models guide global, regional and country teams when supporting programme countries in developing Millennium Development Goals-based development strategies. The project aims to ensure that MDG needs assessment models take into account and reflect rights-based standards and principles, including the rights of indigenous peoples.

IV. Additional information regarding recent projects, programmes and activities

Poverty reduction

35. The UNDP Poverty Reduction Group has developed a draft context-adaptable toolkit to offer guidance on how to determine the entry points and strengthen the role of civil society organizations, including indigenous peoples' organizations, in the poverty and social impact analysis (PSIA) process. Poverty and social impact analyses are important ex ante analytical processes that review anticipated impacts of specific policy reforms on a country's development progress. The project was initiated in 2007 and the toolkit will be launched in 2008.

HIV/AIDS

36. Indigenous peoples often suffer marginalization and are thus more vulnerable to HIV infection. Yet, the cultural identification of indigenous peoples can be used as a positive force in HIV prevention and should be recognized in national AIDS frameworks. To this end, a chapter on HIV/AIDS was included in a Community Training Manual on Indigenous Women and Decision Making produced by the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the

Pacific and the UNDP gender mainstreaming programme in Asia. The Regional Initiative, in cooperation with the UNDP Regional HIV/AIDS Programme, contributed to a situation report on international migration in East Asia and South-East Asia, an inter-agency initiative led by the International Organization for Migration and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The report includes special chapters on indigenous peoples and migration, and on access to health, HIV and migration.

Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP)

37. Working in over 100 countries, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP), implemented by UNDP, has since 1992 been at the forefront of efforts to address the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and has pioneered the application of alternative modalities to work with indigenous peoples in many of its country programmes. The Small Grants Programme has supported over 1,600 projects with indigenous peoples, representing some 15 per cent of its total portfolio of projects. At an average of $22,000 per project, projects awarded to indigenous peoples have amounted to over $36 million globally since 1992.

38. The Small Grants Programme makes every effort to allow submission in local and vernacular languages and has also developed alternative proposal formats, such as participatory video. The Participatory Video Handbook was launched during the Permanent Forum in 2006, in collaboration with non-governmental organization Insight. Since mid-2006, the Small Grants Programme has been working with DotSUB (http://www.dotsub.com/films/unpfiiparticipatory/) to make more online translations available of indigenous peoples participatory video. The Participatory Video Handbook has been translated into Spanish, Russian and Indonesian.

Equator Initiative

39. The Equator Initiative (www.undp.org/equatorinitiative) is a partnership between UNDP, civil society, business, Governments and communities created to help develop the capacity and raise the profile of grass-roots efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Equator Initiative works in close collaboration with indigenous organizations. Over 40 per cent of Equator Prize finalists and winners (2002-2006) self-identify as indigenous groups, communities or initiatives.

40. In 2007, the Equator Prize 2004 finalist, Kalinga Mission for Indigenous Children and Youth Development (KAMICYDI) in the Philippines, worked with the Equator Initiative team to develop a business plan for a microcredit facility for indigenous women in Kalinga province. The endowment of the KAMICYDI microfinance programme through a private donation that had been facilitated by the Tribal Link Foundation and the Equator Initiative was recognized.

41. On 23 May 2007, the Equator Initiative hosted a dialogue on indigenous entrepreneurship in partnership with Aveda, the Tribal Link Foundation, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The dialogue focused on the successes and challenges of indigenous entrepreneurship. In 2007, the Equator Initiative published an article on the challenges and opportunities of indigenous entrepreneurship in the UN-Business

Focal Point, an online publication that seeks to enhance communication among United Nations private sector focal points.

UNDP Kenya

42. The engagement of UNDP Kenya with indigenous peoples stems from the implementation of the UNDP Human Rights Strengthening programme in 2004. The programme aimed at (a) strengthening the capacity of UNDP to work on indigenous peoples issues through the creation of a framework for sustained dialogue at the national level and (b) raising awareness among various stakeholders at the national level on the rights of indigenous peoples.

43. The activities initiated under Human Rights Strengthening contributed to the establishment of a United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee (UNIPACK). The Advisory Committee has provided support to the visit of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people to Kenya in 2006. The selection of an Advisory Committee representative as a member of the National Steering Committee of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme in Kenya will strengthen the building of linkages among various ongoing projects.

44. After the visit of the Special Rapporteur, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights established an Indigenous Peoples Team consisting of representatives from various indigenous peoples in Kenya as well as a representative of the Advisory Committee to review and propose possible interventions towards the implementation of some of the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur. To this end, UNDP and the National Commission have jointly formulated (and are mobilizing resources for) a proposal that includes activities such as awareness-raising, capacity development of the National Commission and dissemination of the report of the Special Rapporteur.

45. The implementation of Assisting Communities Together, a global programme in Kenya, has been particularly successful. The programme supported seven indigenous peoples' organizations that produced significant achievements such as the provision of legal aid services, awareness on the implications of retrogressive cultural practices affecting the education of girls and the addressing of the subject of opportunities for indigenous disabled children in schools.

46. Efforts on information-sharing have been significant and have provided an important avenue for indigenous peoples' participation in various forums, particularly in voters' education processes before the elections. The United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee has embarked on a process of information-gathering through research and production of an extensive report on Advisory Committee activities in Kenya. This initiative also addresses the need to create harmony and unity of purpose among indigenous people in Kenya.

UNDP Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development in Asia and the Pacific

47. In 2007, some 30 projects and programmes were led or partnered by the Regional Initiative, with gender as a cross-cutting issue.

Law and policy

48. In response to a request for technical assistance from the Government of Cambodia, the Regional Initiative has been working closely with UNDP Cambodia to contribute towards the adoption of a policy on indigenous peoples' development. This has included support to the Ethnic Minority Department of the Ministry of Rural Development (the responsible governmental unit for indigenous peoples) in strengthening policy dialogue among Government agencies, civil society and indigenous peoples at the grass-roots and national levels, including 10 provinces. The policy is currently in the final stages of review prior to its adoption.

49. In close cooperation with UNDP Indonesia, the Regional Initiative has focused on a review of national laws and policies relevant to indigenous peoples. The Regional Initiative's involvement served as a catalyst in bringing together the Government of Indonesia and a national alliance of indigenous peoples to conduct the review, which included the organization of provincial and district-level consultations to identify gaps and provide recommendations for further action. The results informed a December 2007 policy workshop on the Accommodation of Indigenous Peoples' Rights in the Constitution, organized by UNDP and the International Labour Organization (ILO), in cooperation with the Government of Indonesia, the Constitutional Court and the National Commission on Human Rights.

Access to justice

50. An ongoing initiative of the Regional Initiative, in cooperation with the UNDP Asia Regional Governance Programme and Asia-Pacific Mainstreaming Gender Programme, is aimed at addressing the issue of "inclusive governance" as a priority concern in the region. In this context, the Regional Initiative examines how different institutions can overcome systematic exclusion of certain disadvantaged groups from accessing justice. It also looks at the interface between formal and customary law, and promotes the use of a human rights-based approach to programming on inclusive governance. The analytical reports on Bangladesh, Cambodia, India and the Philippines provide an insight into indigenous peoples' customary laws, and they will inform plans and programmes on access to justice in those countries.

Development policy

51. As part of an ongoing initiative on "Indigenous peoples and the human rights-based approach to development: engaging in dialogue", the Regional Initiative organized two subregional training workshops in October 2007 in (a) Nepal, in partnership with the Human Rights Commission of Nepal, and UNDP Nepal; and (b) the Philippines, with UNDP Philippines and the Cordillera Indigenous Peoples' Legal Centre. The two workshops provided 50 indigenous representatives with training skills on international law, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the application of the human rights-based approach to development from the perspective of indigenous peoples. The participants demonstrated great interest in carrying out follow-up national training plans.

52. A complementary activity has been the undertaking of a series of analytical studies of existing projects funded by the Asian Development Bank. The case studies, carried out in five countries (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal and the

Philippines) reviewed the use and enforcement of the Bank's safeguard policies, and established recommendations which have informed a Bank safeguard review process, with consultations undertaken in November 2007.

E-inclusion and media of indigenous peoples

53. The Regional Initiative, in partnership with the UNDP Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme and the Asia Regional Governance Programme, organized a workshop at the e-Bario Knowledge Fair in Sarawak, Malaysia, in December 2007. Bringing together representatives of indigenous information and communications technology (ICT)-media practitioners and researchers from 14 countries ranging across Asia and the Pacific and Canada and Australia, the workshop facilitated the sharing of knowledge and experiences and resulted in the formulation of an agenda and a regional action plan on e-inclusion and media for indigenous peoples, which included the development of an e-inclusion project for Asia's indigenous peoples in the second phase of the Regional Initiative (2008-2011).

UNDP Mexico

54. UNDP has been working with the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous People over the last two years towards the implementation of an initiative to create and spread information on indigenous peoples for the purpose of decision-making. The initiative had a budget of $398,000 in 2007 and has a budget of $486,000 in 2008.

55. In 2007, UNDP Mexico carried out an assessment of indigenous women's political participation. As a result, UNDP will implement in 2008 a development capacity process to create better conditions for the effective exercise by indigenous women of their local authority-related responsibilities. UNDP will implement a project on electoral rights and political participation of indigenous peoples which is counting on the contribution of governmental and academic partners ($422,000).

56. UNDP Mexico has received $70,000 from the UNDP Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund to carry out the project entitled "Empowering indigenous peoples for local development", which aims to promote accountability in local governments by increasing the capacity of indigenous communities to monitor the work of public institutions and their representatives.

UNDP Bolivia

57. As part of its collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNDP has provided financial support to representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations in strengthening their participation in the sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and to the civil society delegation that is participating in the negotiations on trade agreements between the Andean Community and the European Union (EU). As part of a project to assist the Constituent Assembly, UNDP has funded an international consultant who will provide technical assistance to indigenous peoples' organizations and to various Assembly commissions in incorporating the rights of indigenous peoples in the Constitution.

UNDP Guatemala

58. UNDP Guatemala is currently implementing the second phase of the Programa Alianza con la Sociedad Civil (PASOC), a programme designed to strengthen civil society organizations, including indigenous peoples' organizations. PASOC II has an annual budget of about $1 million (2007-2009) and aims to create constructive partnerships between State institutions and civil society organizations in the areas of discrimination and racism, transparency and social auditing. The consultative mechanism dimension, which was the main thrust of HURIST in the context of PASOC I, has been developed by strengthening indigenous peoples' participation in the existing development councils (official spaces for consultation on local and national development policies). A series of videos have been produced in indigenous languages for capacity development, as well as a manual on social auditing.

59. UNDP Guatemala is also implementing a project to support the productive reintegration of populations uprooted by the armed conflict (most of them indigenous peoples), in collaboration with the Consultative Assembly of Uprooted Populations, a self-recognized Mayan organization, with a total budget of $733,000 (2005-2008) and $262,000 for 2007. To sum up, UNDP Guatemala is using approximately $1.7 million for projects mainly related to indigenous peoples.

60. In 2007, UNDP Guatemala maintained a close relationship with the Council of Spiritual Guides of the Mayan Peoples and worked with it to prepare and publish the report entitled *Cosmovisión Maya: Plenitud de la Vida*, which is the first publication containing systematized information on the vision and values of the Mayan peoples.

UNDP Suriname

61. UNDP Suriname is supporting the dialogue among indigenous and tribal peoples in Suriname, the Government and other stakeholders on the issue of indigenous and tribal peoples' collective land rights. Suriname has no specific legislation on indigenous peoples' land rights and the lack of such legislation is a source of continuous conflicts related to the granting of mining and logging concessions, protected areas and their management, and conservation efforts.

62. A land rights project has made possible the establishment of a Joint Commission of the Traditional Authorities on Collective Land Rights. This marks the first time that the traditional authorities (paramount chiefs and chiefs) have established such commission, which is composed of indigenous and Maroon academics. The Commission is mandated, inter alia, to design a legal framework for the recognition of collective indigenous and tribal land rights in Suriname. At the time of the writing of this report, the Commission had prepared an action plan and was mobilizing resources for its implementation.

UNDP Russian Federation

63. As in previous years, the Governance and Environment Units of UNDP in the Russian Federation have contributed to the Russian-speaking component of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Indigenous Fellowship Programme. A number of UNDP environmental projects include a component related to indigenous peoples. For instance, the project "Demonstrating sustainable conservation of biological diversity in four protected areas in the Russian Federation's Kamchatka Peninsula, phases I and II" resulted in (a) draft

provisions on public councils and local self-governance and (b) the protection of the Bystrinsk and Nalychevo natural parks with the use of traditional environmental knowledge of the indigenous peoples in the north.

UNDP Bangladesh

64. UNDP Bangladesh is implementing the project "Promotion of development and confidence-building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts" (2004-2009) in collaboration with the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs. With a budget of $50 million, the project aims at improving socio-economic development of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in line with the principles of self-reliance, decentralization and sustained peace. The purpose of the project is to reinvigorate and strengthen an effective and conducive development mechanism in the Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari Hill Districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region of Bangladesh.

65. The year 2007 was one of expansion for the project and significant results have been achieved. Besides the community empowerment and health clusters, some other clusters — education, local governance and institutional capacity-building, economic development and confidence-building — have also started the implementation of different activities. For example, the programme has facilitated a process of local-level institution-building, resulting in the formation of 1,635 *para* (hamlet) development committees spread over the entire Chittagong Hill Tracts.

66. The project has set up a number of high-level consultative platforms through which it interacts with the centrally placed key political and governmental leadership on various aspects of Chittagong Hill Tracts policies. The project has always advocated promotion of the "bottom-up peoples' empowerment" model of decentralized local governance in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

UNDP Indonesia

67. UNDP is supporting the local government of Papua in meeting one of the demands specified by the Special Autonomy Law on Papua as well as the people's demand to legalize *Adat* courts. The initiative seeks to promote the establishment of a special local regulation (PERDASUS) that will enable the use of *Adat* courts as a formal dispute resolution measure. The initiative includes the strengthening of the *Adat* courts in five selected districts in Papua and West Papua provinces; and advocacy and coordination among the provincial prosecution office and other institutions.

UNDP Lao People's Democratic Republic

68. A UNDP Country Office Working Group has been established to promote the mainstreaming of indigenous peoples into UNDP programming. The Working Group conducted a Learning Series on Ethnic Diversity for UNDP staff. An internal library on indigenous peoples/ethnic minority issues was set up and a desk review on ethnic minority peoples in the Lao People's Democratic Republic was carried out, with recommendations on how UNDP can better address ethnic minority issues, particularly those dealing with access to land and resettlement.

69. Access to information presents significant challenges in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, owing to its diverse culture and languages. The Community Radio Project, launched in 2007 and the first of its kind, broadcasts radio shows in

three local languages on issues such as culture, health, agriculture and current events. UNDP has also been working with Lao National Television to produce a TV series on the ethnic minority groups of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

UNDP Nepal

70. New and ongoing projects include 14 initiatives encompassing work with 12 indigenous communities in 13 districts of Nepal. The initiatives have focused on improving indigenous peoples' livelihoods, strengthening awareness-raising capabilities, and conservation and management of traditional Himalayan medicine (*Sowo Rippo*) and healers (*Amchis*). Projects to improve livelihoods include: improvement of vermin-compost and renewable energy technology; improving shifting cultivation and conserving wild tuberous plants; and introducing innovative stove technology for traditional ironworkers.

UNDP Thailand

71. The UNDP Governance Unit, in collaboration with the Inter-Mountain Peoples' Association for Education and Culture in Thailand, has implemented a project entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights of indigenous and highland ethnic peoples in Thailand". The project aims at educating, advocating for and strengthening networks of highland ethnic peoples, through four main activities: (a) establishment of a human rights documentation centre (for highland ethnic peoples); (b) training on human rights for ethnic leaders; (c) setting up of a mechanism for legal assistance; and (d) networking among civil society organizations, governmental organizations and international actors. The project is supported by the United Nations Democracy Fund. The Environment Unit also launched a project entitled "Indigenous livelihood restoration and sustainable ecology for Lanta Island, Krabi", aimed at assisting in the recovery and restoration of the communities in tsunami-affected areas so as to preserve and promote their cultural heritage.

UNDP Cambodia

72. In 2007, UNDP Cambodia worked closely with civil society and indigenous peoples' networks to help indigenous youth gain the knowledge and experience needed for greater involvement in community work. Two leadership training courses were conducted to support intergenerational dialogue between indigenous youth and elders. UNDP provided support to indigenous youth to raise awareness on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

UNDP Malaysia

73. UNDP Malaysia is implementing a project entitled "Study to identify strategies and programmes to eradicate poverty and improve employment and equity restructuring in Sabah and Sarawak" (November 2005-June 2008). This project is aimed at assisting the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Department of the Prime Minister, and the State Economic Planning Units of Sabah and Sarawak, where the majority of the country's indigenous peoples live, in identifying the main factors impacting on poverty and equity restructuring efforts. In addition to implementing this study, UNDP has recently produced a publication entitled "Malaysia: Measuring and Monitoring Poverty and Income Inequality", which details the profiles of the poor in Malaysia and shows that there remain relatively

large numbers of poor households living in poverty in rural Sabah and Sarawak, as well as in the rural areas of Terengganu, Kelantan and Kedah.

74. The lessons learned from the previous country programme 2003-2007 have helped UNDP Malaysia to focus its new country programme, 2008-2012, on the vulnerable and marginalized, giving priority to the rural communities, particularly those in Sabah, Sarawak, Kelantan, Terengganu and Kedah. UNDP Malaysia has also made progress in engaging the private sector and has partnered with Honda Malaysia to implement a project entitled "Human resource development through education and training for Malaysian youths", which provides 20 higher-education scholarships to underprivileged students.

75. A one-day policy dialogue was organized in collaboration with the United Nations country team, to discuss the localization of Millennium Development Goals from the perspective of improving spatial and ethnic equity in development outcomes in the less developed State of Sabah. The dialogue was organized to (a) draw attention to huge inequities in economic and social outcomes, spatially and between ethnic communities in Sabah and (b) take stock of progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Sabah and of the constraints on further progress.

UNDP India

76. UNDP India supports a number of projects undertaken in indigenous/tribal areas. A recently completed project entitled "Strengthening sustainable livelihoods for biodiversity conservation in Sundarbans" focused on sustainable development and biodiversity conservation for the Sundarbans ecosystem. A related project entitled "Conservation and sustainable use of the Gulf of Mannar biosphere reserve's coastal biodiversity" aims to demonstrate the modalities for integrating biodiversity conservation, sustainable coastal zone management and the livelihoods of local communities, including indigenous peoples. In addition, UNDP India is participating in a joint United Nations project to contribute to the national response in respect of reducing the risk and impact of HIV/AIDS in the four north-east States of Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Meghalaya, home to a large number of indigenous peoples.

UNDP Philippines

77. The project entitled "Integrated programme for the empowerment of indigenous peoples and sustainable development of the ancestral domain" aims at supporting the effective implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997. The project consists of (a) the formulation and pilot implementation of the ancestral domain sustainable development and protection plans in ancestral domains that have been awarded their titles; and (b) capacity development of indigenous peoples communities, especially of leaders, youth and women. The project, with a total budge of $850,000 for three years, is being implemented in collaboration with the Department of Agrarian Reform and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. In 2007, out of the 10 targeted sites for formulation of the protection plans, 5 had fulfilled the minimum requirements needed to produce the final printed forms.

V. Information regarding the special theme of the seventh session: "Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges"

UNDP *Human Development Report 2007/2008*

78. The UNDP *Human Development Report 2007/2008: Fighting Climate Change — Human Solidarity in a Divided World*[9] (http://hdr.undp.org/en/-) underlines the fact that international cooperation on climate change alone cannot resolve the wider problems driving deforestation and that the world is losing an opportunity to unite the climate change mitigation agenda with a range of wider human development benefits. The report also affirms that multilateral mechanisms and governance structures should be developed as part of a broad-based strategy for human development that extends beyond meeting conservation and emission targets to addressing a far wider set of development concerns, including respect for the human rights of indigenous peoples.

Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation

79. UNDP believes that reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) presents an opportunity to jointly address climate change and rural poverty, while sustaining ecosystem services and conserving biodiversity. Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation could offer up significant new resources for sustainable forest management and conservation. However, since forests support the livelihoods of several hundred million people, including some of the poorest communities in the developing world, the Poverty-Environment Partnership, of which UNDP is a part, pleads for more attention to be paid to the interests of all stakeholders, especially rural people who live in and depend upon forest ecosystems. New initiatives designed to address climate change by conserving forests and other ecosystems, such as REDD, must be driven not only by their potential climate and other environmental benefits but also by consideration of how they will affect rural communities.

80. Hard-won lessons derived from years of experience in the agriculture and forest sectors, in nature conservation and in the global carbon market can all help guide the design of more equitable and effective REDD mechanisms. Challenges such as governance issues, weak rural land tenure regimes, limited access by vulnerable groups to investment finance, markets and information, and capture of benefits by local or national "elites" need to be addressed. Community-based and participatory approaches can help overcome such hurdles, although their high initial costs can make them difficult to implement in practice. In the long run, however, efforts to enlist community support for REDD should reduce costs and risks and increase total benefits.

[9] Basingstoke, United Kingdom, Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

The UNDP-GEF Community-based Adaptation (CBA) project

81. Local communities, including many indigenous peoples, are often those most directly affected by the impact of climate change. In some instances, members of those communities may also be the least equipped to cope with the effects of climate change and, as a consequence, will require external support in adapting their livelihoods to changing patterns of rainfall, drought, flooding and other climate-related risks. In this regard, a UNDP-GEF Community-based Adaptation (CBA) project launched in November 2007 will be piloting the community component of the GEF Strategic Priority on Adaptation in order to build the resilience of communities and the ecosystems upon which they rely in the face of climate change impacts. Of the 10 countries selected, several with high concentrations of indigenous peoples will also be piloting field-based CBA projects that target indigenous populations.

82. In addition to addressing the vulnerability of indigenous peoples to climate change, the traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) of many indigenous peoples also reflects an intimate and long-term understanding of climatic trends and variability. The GEF Small Grants Programme has been collaborating with various partners such as the Mountain Institute, the Christensen Fund, Insight, and the Indigenous Peoples Restoration Network website to develop new field-based tools, such as participatory video and community-based repeat photography, in a number of countries with a view to documenting and facilitating the traditional ecological knowledge of indigenous peoples related to climate change. Given that "adaptive capacity" to address climate change is central to the recent agreement at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007 to create a mechanism to fund field-based adaptation projects, it is expected that these tools will play an important role in demonstrating the resilience and adaptive responses of indigenous peoples in the face of climate change.

VI. Obstacles to the implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum

83. Given their political implications, the establishment of consultative/dialogue mechanisms continues to be a challenging task. The presence of various factors is essential to achieving this goal including a Government-enabling environment and the unity of, or good collaboration within, in the indigenous peoples' movement at the national level. In this context, the leading role of United Nations resident coordinators and UNDP engagement at the corporate level through the allocation of sufficient human and financial resources will continue to be essential.

VII. Facilitating factors for the implementation of recommendations

84. The strong collaboration among United Nations organizations and programmes, members of the Inter-Agency Support Group and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum creates an environment that is conducive to greater effectiveness. In 2007, UNDP actively participated in the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Indigenous Issues in developing guidelines and a workplan for mainstreaming and integrating indigenous peoples into country processes and mechanisms.

85. The UNDP Oslo Governance Centre sponsored the preparation of a paper entitled "UNDP and indigenous peoples: towards effective partnerships for human rights and development" (November 2006), written by Max Ooft, Assistant Resident Representative and Programme Specialist, Governance, in UNDP Suriname.[10] The study includes a review and assessment of UNDP projects and programmes with indigenous peoples and argues that "partnerships with indigenous peoples can be a strong niche area for UNDP as a trusted United Nations partner at country level with a strong leveraging and facilitating potential for programmatically applying the rights-based approach to development" (chap. I (b)). The recommendations of the study, which have proved highly useful, will continue to inform the work of UNDP in the future.

86. UNDP engagement with indigenous peoples has received a fresh impetus with the historic adoption by the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007, of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

VIII. Policy on indigenous peoples' issues and other similar tools and mechanisms

87. In the context of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004), UNDP issued a policy guidance note in August 2001 entitled "UNDP and indigenous peoples: a practice note on engagement". The UNDP policy is underpinned by the normative human rights framework and recognizes indigenous peoples' vital role in, and contribution to, development. Also in 2001, UNDP issued a practice note on engagement with civil society organizations. This document provides UNDP with a framework within which to guide its work in building sustainable partnerships with civil society organizations, including organizations working on indigenous peoples' issues.

88. In May 2000, UNDP established a Civil Society Organizations Advisory Committee to the Administrator to provide strategic advice to senior management on key policy directions. The Committee, which includes the chair of the Permanent Forum, has helped bring indigenous peoples' concerns to the attention of the UNDP Administrator and senior management.

89. UNDP has also supported the establishment of national civil society advisory committees and indigenous peoples' advisory committees to United Nations country teams in a number of countries and will continue to support these processes.

IX. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the next session of the Permanent Forum

"Autonomous development in dignity"

90. A self-government dimension would allow participants at the Permanent Forum to share experiences on how to ensure that indigenous peoples are able to manage their own governing systems, with particular emphasis on the extent to

[10] Available from http://www.undp.org/oslocentre/docs06/Max_Ooft.pdf.

which there are systems or mechanisms in place to design and implement development strategies that enjoy indigenous ownership.

91. An autonomous economic development dimension would constitute a unique opportunity to share experiences and ideas on how indigenous peoples worldwide are coping with, or finding innovative ways to participate in, economic development initiatives, whether through non-timber forest products, agriculture, tourism, casinos, etc. Such analysis would allow a critical look at the marginalization of indigenous peoples from participation in mainstream economic policymaking and globalization as well as marginalization from actual economic activities, including access to production factors such as land, capital, infrastructure and communications. It would also provide an opportunity to voice concerns and ideas on indigenous peoples' degree of participation in initiatives such as debt swaps, carbon credits and other clean development initiatives.

X. Conclusions

92. **A renewed sense of global partnership in all its dimensions of shared responsibility, accountability and reciprocity will be vital in respect of facing current and future challenges, particularly in addressing climate change and adaptation initiatives. UNDP will continue to engage with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and with indigenous peoples and indigenous peoples' organizations at the global, regional, national and local levels.**

93. **UNDP encourages indigenous peoples to engage with the UNDP mandate to help people build a better life, and to work jointly towards the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, article 41 of which states:**

> **The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance. Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established.**

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

International Labour Organization

Summary

The present report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its seventh session outlines the current status of a number of ILO projects and programmes addressing indigenous issues and highlights the main substantial areas of ongoing work on indigenous issues carried out by ILO. The report brings together information and inputs relevant to indigenous and tribal peoples from different programmes within ILO. A number of suggestions are also included regarding the recommendations of the Permanent Forum and possible themes for its next session.**

* E/C.19/2008/1.

** The present report is structured according to the questionnaire provided by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum. In order to avoid duplication under several sections of the report, various issues are cross-referenced.

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I. Recommendations addressed exclusively to the International Labour Organization

1. *The Permanent Forum calls on the International Labour Organization (ILO) to provide more information in the future on the status and trends in the practice of traditional occupations.*[1] During a process to develop indicators for monitoring the implementation of article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, "traditional occupations" was identified as such a possible indicator. Work is ongoing in ILO to begin to develop a methodological framework concerning traditional occupations as an indicator with a view to preparing a survey tool that can be tested in a selected group of countries, preferably together with the testing of other Convention indicators. From an ILO perspective, measuring the access of indigenous peoples to traditional occupations and the changes in the exercise of these practices over time would be of interest for assessing the decent work opportunities of indigenous peoples and as a means to monitor the practical application of Convention No. 111, as well as Conventions Nos. 107 and 169.

2. ILO is also paving the way for the development of indicators for the implementation of the provisions of Convention No. 169.

II. Recommendations addressed to one or more agencies

3. *The Permanent Forum welcomes the decision of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues to hold, on an exceptional basis, a meeting to consider appropriate ways of promoting, disseminating and implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, once it is adopted by the General Assembly.*[2] With the advent of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in September 2007, the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues agreed that it would hold an extraordinary meeting on the Declaration before the seventh session of the Permanent Forum. ILO, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), has organized an extraordinary meeting of the Support Group, to take place in February 2008, in order to discuss ways of disseminating, promoting and implementing the Declaration as well as Convention No. 169 as a package of rights that provide a universal human rights framework for indigenous peoples. Among the issues that will be discussed at the meeting are: how existing programmes of United Nations agencies, including at the country and regional level, contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and Convention No. 169; the steps that can be taken to ensure that Agency programmes reflect those established rights; the role of United Nations agencies and the Support Group in the promotion of the Declaration and steps that can be taken to that end.

4. *Recalling the Inter-Agency Support Group report on data disaggregation, the Permanent Forum calls for the implementation of the following recommendations:*

(a) The United Nations system should use and further refine existing indicators, such as the common country assessment indicators, Millennium

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43), para. 122.

[2] Ibid., para. 34.

Development Goals indicators, country progress reports, global monitoring instruments and human development indexes to measure the situation of indigenous and tribal peoples.[3] The response to this recommendation is contained in section I of the present report, as well as in paragraph 9 on data collection and disaggregation.

III. Information on themes addressed by the Permanent Forum

A. Indigenous children and youth

5. ILO is responsible for several conventions that are of relevance to indigenous children. Apart from the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 (No. 107) and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), ILO has two conventions that deal with issues of minimum age of admission to employment (Convention No. 138) and the worst forms of child labour (Convention No. 182). In order to assist ILO staff and other practitioners in the implementation of projects for the elimination of child labour that affect indigenous peoples, the Project to Promote ILO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (PRO 169) and the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour published the *Handbook on Combating Child Labour among Indigenous and Tribal Peoples*. The handbook has been widely distributed to a broad range of partners and can be found on the ILO website (www.ilo.org/indigenous).

B. Indigenous women

6. Collaboration between PRO 169 and the Bureau for Gender Equality has resulted in efforts to map the particular employment concerns of indigenous women workers. More specifically, research has been undertaken to provide a better understanding of existing gender-based discrimination of indigenous workers in the context of the provisions set out in relevant international labour standards. The following studies were undertaken during 2007 in that regard:

(a) A case study on gender-related challenges among the indigenous peoples in Bangladesh;

(b) A case study on gender-related challenges among the indigenous peoples in Nepal;

(c) A desk review on the situation of indigenous women regarding discrimination in employment and occupation in Latin America to synthesize available research from the region.

7. The foregoing findings are forming the basis of a working paper with recommendations for a practical and integrated approach to addressing indigenous peoples' collective rights and combating gender discrimination in indigenous societies.

8. This will be of particular use in efforts to further mainstream gender into existing ILO programmes in the framework of promoting Convention No. 169 and

[3] Ibid., para. 124.

the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111). Further information on recent work on Convention No. 111 and indigenous issues is contained in paragraphs 18 to 20 of the present report.

C. Data collection and disaggregation

9. In most of the countries where ILO is undertaking programmes to support indigenous peoples, the lack of specific and adequate data is still a major obstacle, for example, when trying to target development interventions to the situation and needs of indigenous peoples. In countries such as Cambodia, Cameroon and Nepal, ILO is undertaking research that helps build a more comprehensive knowledge base on the situation of the various indigenous peoples, including gender-disaggregated information and data. **However, it should also be recognized that more comprehensive and systematic approaches are needed, in collaboration with national bureaux of statistics, to ensure that the concern for indigenous peoples is integrated with national data-gathering systems.**

10. With regard to specific ILO initiatives for data collection, information is provided in section I of the present report on the use of status and trends in traditional occupations as an indicator as well as the development of indicators for the implementation of Convention No. 169.

IV. Obstacles to the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

11. As discussed at the meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group, held in Montreal, Canada, in September 2007, ILO considers that **improving the interactive dialogue between United Nations agencies and the members of the Permanent Forum before, during and after the annual sessions of the Forum would serve to ensure that the recommendations of the Forum better reflect the substantive contributions of the agencies and that such recommendations are technically accurate and within the mandate of agencies, to make certain they are given due respect and effectively acted upon. Moreover, it would serve to enhance the transparency with which the recommendations are drafted. Further guidance from the Forum on the content and structure of the agency contributions, as well as the portfolio system that has been adopted by the members of the Forum, is seen as a useful mechanism for achieving this. Training by United Nations agencies for the incoming members of the Forum would also be desirable.**

12. **In order to enable the Forum's recommendations to have a sustainable impact, it is important that its recommendations foresee results-oriented processes, as opposed to a number of individual activities. In that regard, it is also important to ensure that recommendations refer to a limited number of key subject areas, in order to make certain the feasibility of results and follow-up, in the context of longer-term processes.**

V. Facilitating factors for the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

13. The relevant information is contained in section IV of the present report.

VI. International Labour Organization policy and tools on indigenous issues

14. ILO is responsible for a number of instruments that are directly relevant to indigenous peoples, such as the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 (No. 107) and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169). A number of other ILO instruments are indirectly related to the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, including the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111); the Convention Concerning Forced Labour, 1930 (No. 29); the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). Those instruments are considered to be some of the ILO core conventions and as such they are of relevance to indigenous peoples. Moreover, they are generally very broadly ratified by the States members of ILO and can therefore be used by indigenous peoples as tools for the protection of their rights in countries that have not yet ratified Convention No. 169. PRO 169 has been examining the implications of a number of those core conventions for indigenous peoples, through research on their legal relevance (paras. 18-20 of the present report contain information on work on Convention No. 111), on the situation of indigenous peoples regarding the substantial matters covered by the conventions (paras. 6-8 of the present report contain information on the organization's recent research on indigenous peoples and gender issues) as well as associated tools.

15. As the tools associated with the aforementioned conventions are directly linked to ongoing technical cooperation activities and programmes, they are covered in sections III and VII of the present report.

VII. Other significant information (recent programmes, budgetary allocations and projects/activities)

16. During 2007, one of the two main projects in the ILO addressing indigenous issues was reoriented. From February 2007, the Interregional Programme to Promote Self-reliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples through Cooperatives and Similar Self-help Organizations Project (INDISCO) became an integral part of the Local Economic Development (LED) programme within the Job Creation and Enterprise Development Department of ILO, thereby signalling a renewed approach to indigenous peoples' development based on the principles of local economic development. The changed approach has also ensured a closer integration of the activities of the two main elements of the indigenous peoples programme in ILO: PRO 169 and INDISCO, which now also operate under the same direction. Beginning in 2008, the project formerly known as INDISCO will operate under a new name: Indigenous Peoples and Local Economic Development (IP-LED).

PRO 169

17. PRO 169 continued its activities to promote ILO Convention No. 169 during 2007, including, inter alia, action to address discrimination. Two new ratifications were received during 2007, from Spain and Nepal. Furthermore, work continued in the area of poverty reduction strategy papers and various ongoing programmes at the national level. The main activities undertaken under this project during the period in question are outlined in paragraphs 18 to 20 of the present report.

Mainstreaming Convention No. 111 to promote the right of indigenous and tribal peoples to equality of opportunity and treatment

18. PRO 169 in a collaborative work. The Equality team published *Eliminating Discrimination against Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Employment and Occupation: A Guide to ILO Convention No. 111*. The guide is a source of information and a tool for indigenous peoples to engage with policy and decision makers. It can also be a tool for Governments, employers and workers' organizations to promote the development and implementation of national laws and policies guided by Conventions Nos. 111 and 169 towards equality of opportunity and treatment in employment and occupation for indigenous peoples. The guide is available in English, French and Spanish.

Studies on discrimination in employment and occupation and traditional occupations of indigenous peoples

19. Using this approach, PRO 169 is also preparing case studies on Convention No. 111 in three particular contexts:

(a) A case study on the rights to lands, territories and resources and practices of pastoralism and hunting-gathering in Kenya;

(b) A case study on the right to practise shifting cultivation as a traditional occupation in Nepal;

(c) A case study on the right to practise shifting cultivation as a traditional occupation in Bangladesh.

Studies on gender-related challenges and the situation of indigenous women regarding discrimination in employment and occupation

20. Again, using Convention No. 111 as a basis, three studies were undertaken on the subject of gender and indigenous peoples. Further information is contained in paragraphs 6 to 8 of the present report.

Promotion of indigenous and tribal peoples' rights through implementation of the principles of Convention No. 169

21. PRO 169 has been implementing a three-year project to promote the rights of indigenous peoples with funding from the European Commission. The project has three components/objectives, which are outlined in paragraphs 22 to 31 below.

Lessons learned and good practices concerning the implementation of the principles of Convention No. 169 are disseminated on a global scale

22. The project aims to document and disseminate lessons learned and good practices for the implementation of the principles of Convention No. 169 on a global scale.

23. Following a series of regional consultations in 2006, the following topics were identified for case studies by PRO 169 partners: impact assessments; constitutional reform and development of legislation; self-management; land rights and natural resources; forest certification and indigenous participation; customary law; conflict prevention and resolution; development cooperation; employment and traditional economies; health; and culturally appropriate, bilingual education. During 2007, 12 case studies were initiated, covering all regions, and an overview study will be compiled during 2008. The results of the research will be used to discuss and disseminate best practices and lessons learned, with a particular focus on consultation and participation.

The rights of indigenous populations/communities in Africa are promoted through documentation and discussion of relevant legal and constitutional provisions

24. A three-year research project, undertaken in collaboration with the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, began in 2006. The project, which is being implemented through the Centre for Human Rights based in the University of Pretoria (South Africa), has two broad aims: to contribute to the development of a suitable policy and legal framework for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples; and to build the capacity of relevant actors among indigenous peoples and Government institutions.

25. The main outcome of the research will be a comprehensive documentation and database of constitutional, legislative and administrative provisions in 25 African countries, to be disseminated to all actors engaged in the promotion and protection of indigenous and tribal peoples' rights in Africa. The research will also make possible continued dialogue in the African region on the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. Whereas desk research will be undertaken on 25 African countries, 10 of those countries will also be the subject of country visits in order to conduct more in-depth study.

26. As indicated in last year's ILO report to the Permanent Forum (E/C.19/2007/3/Add.11), a workshop to define the scope and methodology for the research was held in Yaoundé in September 2006. During 2007, initial research was undertaken in 10 African countries: Burundi; the Central African Republic; the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Egypt; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Kenya; Namibia; Nigeria; and South Africa. A further 15 country studies are foreseen for 2008. Relevant documents for this project can be found on the ILO website.

Government and indigenous institutions in Nepal, Bangladesh and India have enhanced their capacity for dialogue and implementation of the relevant ILO Conventions on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Rights (Nos. 107 and 169).

Capacity-building for dialogue in South Asia

27. On 14 September 2007, Nepal ratified Convention No. 169. The ratification comes after several years of concerted efforts on the part of indigenous representatives in Nepal, key political allies and ILO.

28. Following ratification, Nepal has two years to align legislation and policies to the principles of the Convention and to develop the mechanisms necessary for its implementation. That period will coincide with the crucial Constituent Assembly in Nepal and it is thus of utmost importance that members of the Assembly have access to legal expertise and the capacity to ensure that the Constitution will be aligned with the provisions of the Convention. ILO is collaborating with the Government, indigenous representatives and donor agencies to explore ways of supporting this process in the coming years.

29. Following ratification, ILO supported several activities to promote the implementation of the Convention. A planning seminar for indigenous organizations was held in September 2007 to discuss strategies for promoting the implementation of the Convention. A national interaction programme on the implementation of the Convention was also carried out in September, with the participation of Government officials, Members of Parliament and representatives of political parties, indigenous peoples' organizations, as well as development experts and donor partners. A number of Nepali participants also attended ILO training courses on indigenous peoples' rights.

30. ILO has also supported an indigenous peoples' audit of the poverty reduction strategy paper. The results of the audit will be presented at a workshop involving relevant stakeholders in January or February in 2008, focusing on how to promote indigenous peoples' rights and development in central-level planning and programmes. Further information is provided below in the section on the poverty reduction strategy paper project. A series of studies have also been carried out focusing on the situation of indigenous women in Nepal, indigenous people and the Millennium Development Goals and the relevance of Conventions Nos. 111 and 169 to the practice of shifting cultivation, a traditional form of agriculture still practiced by a number of Nepal's indigenous groups.

31. It is hoped that the comprehensive approach to the implementation of Convention No. 169 supported by PRO 169 in Nepal will generate valuable lessons for other countries wishing to ratify the Convention.

National programme in Cambodia

32. With funding from the Danish Embassy in Phnom Penh, PRO 169 has been implementing a national programme on indigenous issues since 2005. The programme has secured funding for a new two-year phase of activities for 2009-2010, following the current phase. It focuses primarily on capacity-building for relevant actors in Government and civil society, including indigenous representatives and communities, and on the implementation of existing legislation authorizing indigenous peoples to own land collectively. The overall objective of the programme is for indigenous communities to be recognized as legal entities with

rights to land and resources and to have the capacity to decide their own priorities for development. Within that framework, the programme has three immediate objectives: (a) Government institutions have the capacity to adequately implement legal and administrative provisions on governance, land and resources, for the benefit of indigenous peoples; (b) indigenous communities have the capacity to organize themselves as legal entities with rights to land and resources and to define community development plans; and (c) indigenous organizations have the capacity to represent and defend their concerns and rights and conduct training for indigenous communities.

33. During 2007, PRO 169 in Cambodia undertook the following activities:

(a) Study on the process of drafting and registering by-laws to enable indigenous communities to register as legal entities, in order to enable them to register collective land titles. The study made an evaluation of the legal and methodological challenges associated with the by-law process so far and its recommendations will feed into a dialogue workshop that will identify ways in which to address those challenges and scale up the registration of by-laws during 2008-2010;

(b) Study on the legal framework and proposal for a sub-decree on shifting cultivation within the framework of the Forestry Law. The recommendations from the study will feed into a national discussion on the drafting and adoption of the aforementioned sub-decree;

(c) Study on the institutional and practical entry points for the inclusion of indigenous issues in the poverty reduction strategy paper process. Two provincial consultation workshops contributed to the study, which was followed by a national workshop to adopt a national strategy for that purpose. Further information is provided below in the section on the prsp project;

(d) Support to indigenous communities in three provinces in the areas of: training on the land laws of relevance to them; assistance in the drafting and registration of by-laws; and support to strengthening community governance and traditional structures for the purposes of the by-law and land registration process;

(e) Translation of the manual on ILO Convention No. 169 into Khmer;

(f) Provision of various comments to the Government of Cambodia on draft legislation that is likely to affect indigenous peoples;

(g) A needs assessment and project training strategy.

National programme in Cameroon

34. PRO 169 and the ILO Subregional Office in Yaoundé launched a national programme in Cameroon in October 2006. The overall objectives of the programme are to reinforce the capacity of actors involved in addressing indigenous issues in Cameroon, and to facilitate dialogue between those actors in two main areas: for a more systematic consideration of the rights, needs and priorities of indigenous peoples; and for improved mechanisms for their effective participation in the legislative, administrative and development processes affecting them. Activities undertaken during 2007 were:

(a) An assessment of the training needs of the programme's various partners (Government, indigenous peoples' organizations, non-governmental organizations, and trade unions);

(b) A study on the institutional and practical entry points for the inclusion of indigenous issues in the prsp process. One national consultation workshop contributed to the study, which will be followed by a national workshop to adopt a national strategy for that purpose. Further information is provided below in the section on the prsp project;

(c) A study and video documentation of good practices in methodologies and curricula for indigenous education, with specific reference to the observe, reflect and act methodology used among the Baka in Cameroon;

(d) Various technical inputs to official action plans under the Indigenous Peoples' Development Plan that concern indigenous communities directly.

Poverty reduction strategy paper project

35. With funding from the Danish Mission in Geneva, PRO 169 has implemented a one-year project to continue its work at the national level in Cambodia, Cameroon and Nepal on indigenous perceptions of poverty and their inclusion in the prsp process. The project has built on previous research and aims at exploring institutional and practical ways in which to include indigenous issues in the prsp processes in the three countries. The research has been undertaken in very different contexts, ranging from Cameroon, where specific programmes have been elaborated to address some indigenous issues within the context of the prsp, but where implementation is lacking, to Cambodia, where there is almost no mention of indigenous peoples in the prsp, but where the registration of collective land rights for indigenous peoples is included as a joint monitoring indicator, and to Nepal, where social inclusion of marginalized groups is one of the main pillars of the prsp. In all cases, there remain substantial technical, methodological, institutional and other challenges for the implementation of poverty reduction strategies that are appropriate for and benefit indigenous peoples, and national strategies have been drafted and discussed at national workshops. Follow-up will be undertaken within the context of existing programmes at the national level. In addition, a more general overview study of the processes in the three countries concerned, including guidance for a broader audience on how to include indigenous issues in prsp processes, will soon be available.

Activities in Latin America

36. Convention No. 169 has been widely ratified by Latin American countries and ILO is working to provide capacity-building, training, awareness-raising and technical advice to those countries in order to overcome implementation challenges. In that regard, the supervisory system of ILO provides important information that can guide the organization's technical cooperation. Over the last year, assistance has been provided to Government and indigenous partners in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Honduras and Peru, while ILO is in the process of developing a more comprehensive technical assistance programme in Latin America.

37. In 2007, ILO attended a regional coordination meeting of United Nations agencies where, inter alia, it was decided to undertake joint activities to promote the

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Convention No. 169.

38. In addition, a series of case studies have been initiated in Bolivia, Argentina and Honduras to document good practices concerning the implementation of Convention No. 169. Towards the end of 2008, ILO will organize a conference to discuss and exchange good practices in the region.

39. In Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, studies are currently being undertaken by the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour programme to document the situation of child labour in indigenous communities and a conference will be organized in March 2008 to discuss the findings of those studies.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Economic Development programme

40. The Indigenous Peoples and Local Economic Development (IP-LED) programme is part of the Danida-ILO indigenous peoples' partnership programme and is complementary to PRO 169. The IP-LED programme contributes to improving the socio-economic situation of indigenous peoples through support to local economic development initiatives started and led by indigenous peoples' communities.

41. Support to sustainable economic development programmes by indigenous peoples' communities is not high on international and national development agendas and Governments have at best adopted a welfare approach. Many indigenous peoples' communities possess vast human and environmental assets and traditional knowledge that can be mobilized for socio-economic development. Supporting communities to develop "from the inside out" by building on existing capacities and assets allows indigenous peoples' communities to become actors of change and find appropriate strategies to respond to the challenges from marginalization, globalization and climate change.

42. The IP-LED programme seeks to promote an approach to indigenous peoples' economic development based on the principles of local economic development, which is aligned with many indigenous peoples' aspirations for integrated area-based and asset-based community and local development. The primary objective is to contribute to the creation of healthy and enterprising indigenous communities by focusing on the identification of economic opportunities for women and men. Engaging in local economic development initiatives and documenting how indigenous communities contribute to national processes of development can lead to improved Government policies and approaches towards indigenous peoples.

43. In 2007, the programme primarily developed and supported activities in Kenya, Namibia and Nepal. In 2008, activities will continue in those countries and new activities will start in Cambodia and Cameroon.

Kenya

44. In Kenya, a partnership programme was established between the Maasai Cultural Heritage Foundation, the World Intellectual Property Organization and ILO to leverage the cultural heritage of the Laikipia Maasai in Kenya for the economic benefit of local communities. Some activities under the partnership were (a) a Maasai internship for three months in Geneva, leading to the development of a guidebook on intellectual property rights for the Maasai community, (b) an

assessment of economic potential in Laikipia based on local heritage products, and (c) support to the development of Maasai bead work, business development and marketing/branding, study tours, livestock marketing and eco-tourism.

Namibia

45. In Namibia, in consultation with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, a three-year technical cooperation programme was developed to promote the rights of the San peoples and to improve their socio-economic situation through local economic development initiatives. The proposal was later incorporated into a United Nations-wide programme on sustainable cultural tourism funded under the United Nations Development Programme/Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund. The joint United Nations programme focuses on protecting the cultural and national heritage of Namibia and leveraging this for sustainable tourism that will contribute to poverty reduction and economic development of communities across Namibia, including for San peoples' communities.

Nepal

46. In Nepal, a large three-year local economic development programme was launched, which includes a component for the indigenous nationalities of Nepal. It focuses on strengthening the local economies through labour-based infrastructure development, skills and business development. As a basis for 2008 interventions, a detailed study was prepared mapping the various indigenous nationalities settled in the target districts, including (a) a profile of their decision-making structures and participation of women and (b) access to relevant administrative and political institutions, health services, traditional knowledge and natural resources. The study concludes with recommendations on potential new economic opportunities and how relevant local administrative structures may ensure the rights of consultation and participation in future programmes.

VIII. International Labour Organization capacity-building programmes on indigenous issues

Training

47. As part of its broader mainstreaming and capacity-building strategy, PRO 169 organized a number of training activities during 2007. It contributed to the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme and undertook training activities at the international, national and local levels as integral components of longer-term processes to address indigenous issues.

48. The examples cited here are of international training activities and the internship initiative. National-level capacity-building efforts are outlined in section VII of the report, where they are contextualized in the outline of national programmes. Further information on all the examples cited here can be found on the ILO website.

Contribution to the United Nations Indigenous Fellowship Programme

49. ILO contributes on an annual basis to the Indigenous Fellowship Programme of OHCHR. During 2007, each of the four groups of fellows in the programme

(English, French, Russian and Spanish-speaking) participated in comprehensive training at ILO for periods of one to two weeks, depending on the group. During 2008, the ILO component of the Fellowship Programme will combine training for the fellows, with training for additional participants, including project partners, in order to increase cost efficiency and open the ILO component to a broader range of interested actors.

Interregional training

50. In September 2007, ILO conducted its annual, interregional training course on "indigenous peoples: rights and good practices" at the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, Italy. The aims of the course were to strengthen the capacity of indigenous and tribal peoples' representatives, policymakers and national and international professional staff to promote and apply indigenous peoples' rights in the context of policy development and dialogue as well as technical cooperation programmes and to support indigenous and tribal peoples' communities in identifying and designing their own local economic development strategies.

51. Participants in the course included indigenous representatives and resource persons, ILO and development agency staff, and Government representatives. Among the participants were several representatives from non-governmental organizations, indigenous organizations and parliamentarians from Nepal, which recently ratified Convention No. 169.

Internship programme

52. PRO 169 has now established a practice, where possible, of engaging indigenous interns to undertake on-the-job training with the project at its headquarters in Geneva and in ILO offices where PRO 169 has national projects. Such internships not only contribute to the capacity-building of the interns, but also enable PRO 169 to benefit from their perspectives, experience and knowledge as indigenous persons. Among the interns that PRO 169 has hosted are former OHCHR indigenous fellows from Bangladesh and Panama and two from the Philippines. An additional, former indigenous fellow will undertake an internship with the project in 2008. Moreover, PRO 169 has hosted several other indigenous interns in Geneva and at national and provincial levels in Cambodia. Additional indigenous interns from Japan and Nepal will join the project in 2008 in Geneva, as well as in the ILO office in Kathmandu.

IX. International Labour Organization activities under the Second Decade

Objective 1: promoting non-discrimination and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the design, implementation and evaluation of international, regional and national processes regarding laws, policies, resources, programmes and projects

53. Under the first objective of the Decade, the current and foreseen International Labour Organization activities to examine issues of gender equality as they relate to indigenous peoples, as well as work on the linkages between Conventions Nos. 111 and 169, and discrimination against traditional occupations of indigenous peoples,

could be considered as a contribution to the objective. Further information on this work is provided in sections III and VII of the present report.

54. Furthermore, most of the PRO 169 activities at the national level involve components of capacity-building to enable indigenous peoples to engage in dialogue on issues and processes affecting them, including in poverty reduction strategy papers (Cambodia, Cameroon and Nepal), legislative processes (Cambodia and Nepal) and in the implementation of such laws and policies. Various global training programmes undertaken by PRO 169 also contribute to the objective. Further information is provided in section VII of the present report.

Objective 2: promoting full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decisions which directly or indirectly affect their lifestyles, traditional lands and territories, their cultural integrity as indigenous peoples with collective rights or any other aspect of their lives, considering the principle of free, prior and informed consent

55. In Cambodia, PRO 169 has been working since April 2005, and will continue to do so at least until December 2010, on the registration of indigenous communities as legal entities in order for them to be in a position to claim collective title to lands. Further information is provided in section VII of the present report.

56. With regard to the principle of free, prior and informed consent, consultation and participation constitute core principles of all PRO 169 work. These principles have been elaborated to some extent under the supervision of Convention No. 169 by the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations as well as under the representations procedure, which is a constitutional procedure of ILO whereby allegations of non-observance of ratified conventions are examined by a tripartite committee and relevant recommendations are issued to the State in question. Furthermore, through the studies on best practices for the implementation of Convention No. 169, PRO 169 hopes to develop a series of practical tools to guide a broader range of actors than its own project partners in the adequate implementation of the principles of the Convention, with a particular focus on consultation and participation. Further information is provided in section VII of the present report.

Objective 3: redefining development policies that depart from a vision of equity and that are culturally appropriate, including respect for the cultural and linguistic diversity of indigenous peoples

57. PRO 169 has been working towards the integration of indigenous issues into poverty reduction strategy paper documents and their implementation in three countries. Further information on PRO 169 work on poverty reduction strategy papers and indigenous peoples is provided in section VII of the present report.

Objective 4: adopting targeted policies, programmes, projects and budgets for the development of indigenous peoples, including concrete benchmarks, and particular emphasis on indigenous women, children and youth

58. Regarding objective 4, in particular the adoption of benchmarks for the implementation of policies, as indicated in section I of the present report, PRO 169 is currently examining the possibilities for establishing a set of indicators for the implementation of Convention No. 169. That work will continue during 2008.

Objective 5: developing strong monitoring mechanisms and enhancing accountability at the international, regional and in particular, the national level, regarding the implementation of legal, policy and operational frameworks for the protection of indigenous peoples and the improvement of their lives

59. Once ratified, the application of ILO conventions is monitored by the organization's supervisory bodies. The supervision of Conventions Nos. 107 and 169 is of course of direct relevance for indigenous peoples, but issues pertaining to indigenous peoples are also increasingly raised in the context of a number of other conventions, for example, addressing discrimination and child and forced labour.

60. In general, in order to ensure effective monitoring and implementation of legal and policy frameworks for the protection of indigenous peoples, it is necessary to establish reliable data and feasible indicators as a basis. The current concern of PRO 169 with the establishment of indicators for the implementation of Convention No. 169 will contribute to the establishment of monitoring mechanisms.

61. Again, ILO work towards the implementation of Convention No. 169 in Nepal, as well as the current documentation by PRO 169 of best practices for the implementation of the Convention will generate key lessons that will be of direct relevance for other countries wishing to improve their implementation of the Convention or of its principles.

The Decade in the African region

62. In November 2007, ILO participated in a workshop hosted by OHCHR on the implementation of the Second Decade in the African region. The workshop was held in Brazzaville and resulted in a number of key recommendations for United Nations agencies, including ILO, on the manner in which they could contribute to the implementation of the Decade. The report of that workshop will be available shortly.

X. Suggestions regarding the theme of the next session of the Permanent Forum

63. ILO recommends that the Permanent Forum, at its next session, address the theme of discrimination or indigenous peoples and conflict.

Discrimination

64. Discrimination could be considered as a cross-cutting theme, impacting on the ability of indigenous peoples to fully enjoy the rights accorded to them under international and national laws, as well as the possibility for them to become equal partners in development. ILO has undertaken a number of studies on discrimination and indigenous peoples in respect of employment and occupation, and gender discrimination, that have demonstrated the centrality of the issue, as well as its pervasiveness. Furthermore, discrimination is an issue dealt with directly by a large number of United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors, which would imply a broad range of substantial contributions to the debate. **As the first objective of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People is promoting non-discrimination, ILO would strongly recommend discrimination as the next theme of the Permanent Forum.**

Indigenous peoples and conflict

65. The second theme that ILO recommends for the consideration of the Permanent Forum is indigenous peoples and conflict. Recent ILO experience has demonstrated the potential of instruments that protect the rights of indigenous peoples, such as Convention No. 169, for addressing situations of conflict where indigenous issues constitute a central consideration. Examples include Nepal, where Convention No. 169 was ratified in September 2007, as an integral component of the process to restore peace and democracy. Other examples of using indigenous rights as a tool for conflict resolution can be found in Guatemala (where it was ratified as part of the peace accords) and a number of other countries. **Given that indigenous peoples often find themselves in situations of conflict, ILO recommends indigenous peoples and conflict as a second option for the theme of the next session of the Permanent Forum.**

XI. List of International Labour Organization events on indigenous issues in 2008

66. In the context of ongoing country-level programmes, a series of activities are foreseen in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, Peru and Nepal. In addition, the following major regional or international events are foreseen:

(a) Three regional workshops to discuss and exchange good practices regarding the implementation of Convention No. 169 in Africa, Asia and Latin America;

(b) Two regional workshops to disseminate the results of the research on the legal protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in Africa;

(c) A series of training courses conducted in English, French, Spanish and Russian on indigenous issues.

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Items 4 and 8 of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Ongoing priorities and themes

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

United Nations Population Fund

Summary

The present note is a summary of the activities of the United Nations Population Fund by region and by country. These activities seek to address the recommendations of the Forum that are related principally to the incorporation of indigenous peoples' issues in the formulation of sector policies; the incorporation of perspectives of indigenous healers and cultural perspectives on health and illness into policies, guidelines and programmes; the integration of the human rights, including reproductive health rights, and special concerns and needs of indigenous women into United Nations programmes and policies; addressing the urgent needs of indigenous children and youth; mainstreaming indigenous gender issues and integrating the special needs and concerns of indigenous women into their programmes and policies; and collecting disaggregated data on indigenous peoples.

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I. Response of the United Nations Population Fund to general recommendations of the Forum

A. Incorporate indigenous peoples' issues into the formulation of sector policies for development cooperation and address indigenous peoples' issues in their joint development programmes and projects

1. In response to this recommendation of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, during 2007, the Latin America and Caribbean Division of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) formulated, in draft form, its strategic plan for indigenous issues, to provide increased guidance to its country offices and partners working on indigenous issues during its 2008-2011 programme cycle.

2. Also noteworthy is that all UNFPA country programme documents approved during 2007 for the period 2008-2012, for Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, recognize the importance of working on indigenous issues, and have included concrete interventions in their three programme areas: population and development, reproductive health and rights, and gender equality.

3. In response to Government priorities and priorities of indigenous peoples in Ecuador, inter-agency collaboration and joint programming processes on indigenous issues intensified during 2007. An example of that was the collaboration between the Government of Ecuador and UNFPA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the preparation of the national 2007 Millennium Development Goal report. The report highlights disparities among indigenous and non-indigenous populations and presents a series of policy recommendations and strategies to address such inequalities.

4. In Bolivia, UNFPA and other United Nations agencies have played a key role in assisting the Government and members of the Constitutional Assembly in discussing matters related to indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women and youth. This inter-agency collaboration has contributed to an informed discussion and to the inclusion of relevant topics pertaining to indigenous women and indigenous youth rights in the new national Constitution.

5. In Bolivia, UNFPA and other United Nations agencies facilitated the debate on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which led to its adoption as law. The work between indigenous peoples and United Nations agencies in Bolivia was facilitated by the important work carried out by the Council for Dialogue among Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations System, created in 2006.

6. In Guatemala, during the recent presidential elections, UNFPA, in partnership with other United Nations agencies, assisted a process for guaranteeing the equal rights of indigenous peoples, including indigenous women, in all public matters. In order to contribute to compliance regarding these rights, UNFPA has contributed to the strengthening of national institutions, such as the Presidential Women's Secretariat, the Office of the Ombudsman of Indigenous Women, the Planning and Programming Secretariat of the Presidency, and the Institute of National Statistics, among others.

7. UNFPA participated in the group formed by the United Nations country team in Nepal to review the draft United Nations Development Group guidelines on indigenous peoples' issues. UNFPA is a member of the Social Inclusion Action Group, which comprises members of United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donors.

B. Incorporate perspectives of indigenous healers and cultural perspectives on health and illness into policies, guidelines and programmes, and Integrate the human rights, including reproductive health rights, and special concerns and needs of indigenous women into United Nations programmes and policies

8. During 2007, UNFPA continued advancing its work in the development and implementation of intercultural reproductive health models, programmes and strategies, in order to address the high indicators in the area of maternal mortality among indigenous women, harmful practices and the growing spread of HIV/AIDS among indigenous peoples, including women. UNFPA is clearly contributing in this regard to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly goals 4, 5 and 6.

9. In responding to the Forum recommendation that UNFPA share lessons learned and experiences in dealing with reproductive health issues in a culturally sensitive manner, UNFPA Honduras and other United Nations agencies, such as UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Volunteers have been preparing and will carry out during 2008 an inter-agency project on the theme "Improving maternal mortality indexes", affecting mainly indigenous groups in the country. The project will be carried out in the departments of Colon and Gracias a Dios, where the Pech and Misquita indigenous peoples live. Through this project UNFPA Honduras and its sister agencies will contribute to the advancement of goal 5 — improving maternal health. The positive experiences and lessons learned in the region on intercultural health and strategies will be drawn upon to improve project quality and effectiveness.

10. In Mexico, UNFPA continued assisting the active participation of indigenous peoples in the design of culturally pertinent policies and programmes for the exercise of reproductive rights and improvement in the quality of health-care services.

11. In order to achieve universal access to reproductive health, one of the indicators for measuring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, within the context of improving maternal health, the country office in Mexico supported the institutionalization and development of two health models for indigenous women migrating from Oaxaca to the north-western States of the country, working thus in the State of origin and of destination. The model called "Paso a paso: cuidando el embarazo" recognizes and incorporates ancient medicinal practices of indigenous peoples.

12. Another culturally sensitive health model supported by UNFPA Mexico was that of the Huasteca region of San Luis Potosí, which, in close partnership with communities, created a health model to improve reproductive health services in

which both Western-trained health personnel and traditional midwives work in close collaboration.

13. In Panama, UNFPA, in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Ngobe Women's Association and the Ministry of Health, continued its work in intercultural reproductive health and rights, reaching indigenous women in 44 different Ngobe communities. Among the changes brought about in reproductive health services have been the inclusion of traditional midwives in the labour process, and their acting as cultural brokers between indigenous women and health personnel. Traditional midwives are providing advice to doctors on how to best treat indigenous women and negotiate with the accompaniment of family members before, during and after birth. A community home close to the health services was created by the Ngobe Women's Association, with UNFPA support, to assist indigenous women in the days before and after birth. So far, 423 women have attended this home in the past two years.

14. In partnership with the NGO, CEASPA and the Office of the Ombudsman, UNFPA Panama also supported the creation of a territorial anti-corruption committee, whose role is to oversee the quality of services provided by the Ministry of Health. Simultaneously, community transportation mechanisms are being promoted in order to prevent delays in access to health services by pregnant indigenous women.

15. In Panama, UNFPA is also contributing to the fight against HIV/AIDS, by incorporating HIV/AIDS prevention training into all training activities with community health promoters and with the community advocates on women rights.

16. In Guatemala, UNFPA contributes to the revaluation and upholding of the role of traditional midwives and spiritual guides, recognizing their importance in all maternal and reproductive health matters. Midwives have been training in the provision of basic services to indigenous women and in their referral to obstetric services, and are being recognized as community leaders who are capable of integrating themselves and participating in the participatory mechanisms of official health systems.

17. UNFPA Ecuador, along with other United Nations agencies, continues its work in the area of intercultural reproductive health. It has contributed to the creation of knowledge, to the promotion of quality reproductive health services for indigenous women and to dialogue, regarding alternative models for addressing gender-based violence among indigenous women.

18. It provided support for a study on the perceptions of indigenous women on reproductive health services in Otavalo and Chimborazo, which led to the identification of socio-cultural barriers to reproductive health services. In Otavalo, UNFPA promoted intercultural health practices, including the use of Quechua among health providers and the training and physical adaptation of health services for the promotion of "vertical labour". At the same time, in Chimborazo, Sucumbíos and Bolivar, it supported training activities for indigenous women, local indigenous leaders and health promoters on reproductive rights and gender equality issues, and in Chimborazo it collaborated in the establishment of a local oversight community mechanism to supervise compliance of public institutions with the law on free maternal health services.

19. In Colombia, with the support of UNFPA, a specific indigenous community and local authorities have agreed to work together with representatives of Government institutions such as the Office of the Ombudsman and the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare to eliminate harmful traditional practices among women and girls, devising together culturally sensitive strategies. It is expected that in carrying out a workplan during 2008, awareness and documentation of the harmful practices will be recognized and gradually eliminated. In this way, UNFPA Colombia responds to the need of guaranteeing women and girls their rights to health, life and integrity, and to addressing forms of discrimination.

20. An important advance in Colombia has been the agreement reached at the seventh National Indigenous Organization of Colombia, which approved a mandate for traditional governments, which states that practices and cultural beliefs that affect the integrity of indigenous women should be revised.

21. UNFPA Colombia is planning to strengthen the capacities of midwives and health agents to properly address reproductive health issues and extrapolate lessons to other possible communities with similar problems.

22. UNFPA Nicaragua initiated a study in the area of intercultural reproductive health in the South Atlantic Autonomous Region, analysing the reproductive health situation of indigenous women and the contributions of traditional medicine to their health. Interactive radio programmes were used to disseminate the debate among indigenous communities, and a meeting with traditional doctors was promoted for the exchange of knowledge and experiences. Within this context, UNFPA supported a community diploma on sexual and reproductive health and education with emphasis on HIV/AIDS prevention and gender equality, which led to the development of six case studies and the creation of a network of voluntary health promoters in sexual and reproductive health.

23. In Peru, some of the more important projects that are being implemented by UNFPA and its counterparts have been developed in geographic areas where there are indigenous peoples. For example, in the regions of Ayacucho, Apurimac and Puno, UNFPA has initiatives that are related to maternal health, the prevention of adolescent pregnancies, and the prevention and treatment of cases of violence against women. These regions have mostly Quechua or Aymara-speaking communities. Likewise, in the region of Ucayali, UNFPA has an initiative on adolescent reproductive health, which is being developed in an area where there are populations that belong to Amazonian indigenous populations. In addition, UNFPA supported the production of a DVD on the "vertical child delivery" process. The DVD provides health-service providers with guidelines on the best way to facilitate this process in rural service delivery points.

24. In Viet Nam, ethnic minorities account for 13.7 per cent of the total population, and are located mainly in mountainous and coastal regions. Current data show that the socio-economic and health status of ethnic minorities is very low compared with the national average, especially for those minorities located in northern mountainous and central highland provinces. In these provinces, the combination of difficult geographic terrain and cultural barriers adversely influences women's access to social services. A recent study by the Ministry of Health showed an estimated national maternal mortality rate of 165/100,000. However, the figure is even higher in mountainous and remote regions where the ethnic minorities reside. For instance, in Cao Bang, a northern mountainous province, the rate is

411 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, while in Binh Duong, a southern lowland province, it is 45 per 100,000 live births.

25. To assist the Government improve the quality of reproductive health care for ethnic minorities, UNFPA is providing the following technical and financial support:

(a) A mixture of basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care in prioritized areas: UNFPA provides support for the implementation of an emergency obstetric care model, including a community-based blood bank and emergency referral systems, in selected remote and mountainous districts. Essential medical equipment will be supplied to obstetrics and gynaecology departments of district hospitals. In selected community health centres, more basic emergency obstetric care will be introduced;

(b) Training ethnic minority midwives in remote areas: in areas where physical access to maternal and neonatal services is difficult and the rate of home delivery is still high, support will be given to ethnic minority women to attend a special training programme on midwifery. Ethnic women will be nominated by their communities to be trained in maternal and neonatal health so that they can perform normal deliveries and refer complicated cases to higher levels. After the training, they will return to work in and serve their communities;

(c) Supply of reproductive health equipment and essential reproductive health drugs and upgrading of facilities: to ensure the quality of reproductive health-care services in remote and underserved areas, UNFPA provides selected medical equipment, appropriate means of transport, and essential drugs. The supplies given will be on the basis of need assessments;

(d) A community-based referral system for safe motherhood: UNFPA is piloting a community-based model to work out how to transport women with a pregnancy complication, on time, to a referral health facility;

(e) Behavioural change communication on sexual and reproductive health in communities: UNFPA supports community-based health education activities using behaviour change communication approaches that require the active participation of local communities;

(f) Monitoring and evaluation of outreach activities: support is given to district outreach health-care teams to provide monitoring and supervision, technical assistance and outreach services to communities in most difficult situations in close collaboration with NGOs.

26. In Nepal, indigenous peoples called Janajatis are defined by the National Committee for the Development of Nationalities as members of the Janajati ethnic group, which has its own mother tongue and traditional culture and yet does not fall under the conventional four-fold Varna, or Hindu hierarchical caste structure. Historically, the Janajati groups occupied a particular habitat or territory, and thus many of them claim to be the first true settlers of Nepal. There is lack of data and research on indigenous peoples. Caste and ethnicity were included only in the 1991 census. According to the Nepal 2001 population census, indigenous groups comprise nearly 37 per cent of the total population of Nepal. The National Foundation for the Development of Indigenous Nationalities Act, 2002 (Adibasi-Janajati Utthan Rastriya Prathisthan, 2058 BS), identified 59 groups as indigenous groups. However, population data are available only for 42 groups.

27. Ensuring the rights of indigenous peoples is very important in the agenda of peace initiatives in the country. The Interim Parliament passed the constituent members' election bill, adopting a mixed electoral system — 335 out of 575 seats for proportional representation and 26 to be nominated by the Prime Minister. Of the seats for proportional representation, 37.8 per cent have been reserved for indigenous peoples. Recently, the Government declared several feast days of indigenous peoples as national holidays. Social inclusion is one of the four main pillars in the national poverty reduction strategy paper, and social justice and social inclusion are national priorities in the national interim development plan (2008-2010). The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Nepal has identified human rights, gender and social inclusion as one of the four outcomes.

28. In line with UNDAF, the UNFPA country programme action plan (2008-2011) will advocate for the integration of social inclusion into development plans and programmes, to support relevant ministries in the revision of policies and mechanisms to reduce institutional barriers to exercising rights and accessing services for all excluded groups and to build the capacity of selected communities to participate in local-level planning, monitoring and evaluation of quality reproductive health services.

29. On the basis of a needs assessment carried out in 2006, UNFPA has recognized the need for more comprehensive strategies to increase access to basic services and to increase demand among the most marginalized and vulnerable communities in Nepal. In 2007, UNFPA began implementation of a strategic direction framework to improve service delivery and increase demand for services at the community level, and thus reach the poorest in a gender-sensitive and socially inclusive manner. Affirmative measures were taken for the recruitment of indigenous staff in line with the UNFPA commitment to end discrimination and to use its expertise and cultural knowledge for further partnerships and programmes with indigenous communities. Targeted interventions for the most vulnerable, including the indigenous communities, will continue in the sixth country programme.

30. In Cambodia, indigenous concerns were incorporated into the UNFPA country programme for 2006-2010 regarding reproductive health, population and gender, targeting provinces and districts where large communities of indigenous peoples live. In these regions, specific support is provided for reproductive health services and the incorporation of gender, population and reproductive health issues into local planning processes.

31. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic it has been identified that certain vulnerable ethnic groups face specific challenges related to reproductive health status, including high fertility rates (families with up to nine and ten children are not uncommon), high maternal mortality rates (as high as 2,000/100,000) and higher neonatal and infant death rates.

32. A number of traditions and practices in certain ethnic groups can directly influence their reproductive health status. To better understand these different practices, the UNFPA country office has supported the elaboration of some qualitative studies, such as the studies on the themes "Gender and ethnic issues that affect the knowledge and use of reproductive health services in six ethnic villages of the Lao People's Democratic Republic" and "Participatory ethnographic and evaluation research" in three southern provinces. Both studies highlighted

traditional practices that can vary per ethnic group, including differences in the initiation of sexual activity, age of marriage and childbirth practices, including the presence, or absence, of others at delivery; the existence of certain practices associated with food, pregnancy and delivery; certain hierarchic family structures, including in-laws and husbands, reportedly limiting the decision-making role of woman regarding reproductive health choices; for example, regarding the number of children, the use of contraceptives, going for antenatal care, assisted delivery, etc. These studies also found that in general people from all ethnic groups had an interest in reducing or spacing the number of children; and only in a few cases was family planning judged as sensitive and seen as a potential "ethnic cleansing practice". Another important finding was that, owing to limited access to education, especially among women of certain ethnic groups, and since most information materials and the media are available only in the Lao language, women's access to information and education on reproductive health issues is often very limited and highly dependent on the attitudes and perceptions of men. In addition, the predominantly trained Tai-Kadai health-care providers are often unable to close the communication gap; and different perceptions related to health-seeking behaviour and traditional practices remain. There is also at times lack of trust between the various ethnic groups, which directly hampers service delivery.

33. In order to overcome these gaps and to reach the most vulnerable groups, the UNFPA country office has initiated, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, a number of programme strategies, including the following:

(a) Production of information, education and communication materials, including a DVD, in four ethnic languages, focusing on reproductive health information and a special DVD targeting men and one targeting women;

(b) Increased family planning coverage through training and operationalization of community-based family-planning distributors, coming from remote ethnic communities, and the provision of services to their own communities; the training of village health volunteers to be able to manage village drug kits; and the provision of family-planning commodities;

(c) Increase skilled delivery: in 2007 a skilled birth attendance assessment was initiated that took into account the specific needs of the vulnerable ethnic groups. That assessment will guide the development plan on skilled delivery and define eventual strategies to increase access to all ethnic groups to skilled delivery.

34. Regarding Nepal, 2007 was a special year for UNFPA in its work supporting the Government of Nepal in successfully launching the population and reproductive health integrated-community-based programme (PARHI CBP) with the specific objectives to empower communities, including socially excluded groups, to demand quality reproductive health services and strengthen the reproductive health services delivery system at the district and village levels, in line with the aim of the new strategic programme. PARHI CBP scored some notable achievements in the two objective areas in six districts (Saptari, Mahottari, Rauthat, Kapilvastu, Dang and Dadeldhura), which are evident through various monitoring findings and progress reports. One of the key features of the programme is that it has effectively taken an inclusive approach to mobilizing people from socially excluded groups (especially Dalits, Janajatis and religious minorities) for bottom-up planning processes. Effort to ensure meaningful participation of the community and strengthening the health

delivery system was concentrated in all of the village development committees situated in the catchments of selected primary health-care centres.

35. The selection of the primary health-care centres last year was based on a rigorous process. The cluster approach, considering primary health-care centres/ health post as the unit of selection, was adopted. The indicators for selection criteria were: the concentration of marginalized populations (Dalits and Janajatis); and female literacy of the village development committees based on the 2001 population census. The Census Bureau of Statistics could record only 42 of the 59 distinct cultural groups noted by the national committee on nationalities. On the basis of this common methodology, a total of seven primary health-care centres and their catchments covering 53 village development committees across the six PARHI CBP districts were selected.

C. Mainstream indigenous gender issues and integrate the special needs and concerns of indigenous women into their programmes and policies

36. An inter-agency seminar organized in Sucumbíos has initiated a discussion on alternative models for addressing gender-based violence among indigenous women and girls. Continued support for this innovative work will be needed in 2008 in order to pursue the construction of these alternative models with community support.

37. In Bolivia, UNFPA has continued a discussion with indigenous women groups on a new gender paradigm that is in harmony with world views of indigenous women. This conceptual model will be shared with other indigenous women groups for reflection and future debate.

38. In Panama, UNFPA, together with UNICEF, supported the National Council of Indigenous Women in the formulation of its strategic plan for 2008-2012. This plan, formulated with a human rights perspective, aims to promote equal opportunities for indigenous women, improve the quality and access to public health and educational services, and promote sustainable forms of development that respect the biodiversity of indigenous territories.

39. The UNFPA-IFAD-funded project in Panama is also contributing to goal 3, through the promotion of education of indigenous girls and negotiating with teachers and the local school system the right of indigenous girls to attend school in their own traditional dresses.

40. In Guatemala, UNFPA provided support to the Presidential Women's Secretariat for the inclusion of indigenous women's issues in its policy. The national policy for the promotion and development of Guatemalan women includes specific topics related to indigenous women, particularly those related to the prevention of sexual violence, the protection and promotion of rights, participation in decision-making processes and the recognition of de facto equality in the areas of health, education, employment, and public and private life matters. It has also contributed to the creation, strengthening and legal recognition of a network of indigenous women for peace.

41. In Nicaragua, UNFPA was able to carry out two studies and design two projects with indigenous women of the Atlantic Autonomous Region in partnership with NGOs and the Polytechnic University of Nicaragua. The objectives of both the studies and the projects are to raise awareness among indigenous women of their rights and to identify sociocultural gender practices that constitute risk factors for HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases among the Tasba Pri indigenous peoples.

42. In Malaysia, UNFPA initiated in 2007 a pilot project to improve the capacities of marginalized women, including indigenous women, to protect themselves from violence and other related problems and to build capacities of, and sensitize, NGOs and law enforcement officers (police, welfare and prison officers), politicians and the media to respond to gender-based violence.

43. Within that framework, a needs assessment was recently conducted to determine the knowledge, attitude and experiences of women in matters pertaining to reproductive health, gender-based violence and other related problems. Consequently, training materials will be either adapted or developed and used for training in 2008 and beyond (under the next country programme period 2008-2012).

D. Address urgent needs of indigenous children and youth

44. In Mexico, UNFPA has been working for more than 10 years for indigenous youth and has made efforts to develop several models for sexual and reproductive health communication campaigns in different languages and culturally sensitive education materials. Information, communication and education have been key strategies for approaching adolescents and indigenous youth and building trust and knowledge, particularly in the state of Chiapas, among the Tseltals and the Tsotiles of the Huasteca region.

45. Participatory sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights models for indigenous youth were also developed in Chiapas and Guerrero. In San Luis Potosí, UNFPA supported the establishment of a sex education programme, which has strengthened the primary school education model.

46. In Guatemala, UNFPA has continued its work with indigenous adolescent girls, contributing to the creation of livelihood skills and job opportunities, along with education in sexual and reproductive health.

47. In 2008, UNFPA will initiate in Nicaragua a project on sexual and reproductive health, geared principally to adolescents and youth of the Caribbean coasts, where indigenous and Afro-descendant youth groups primarily live. It will derive many lessons and best practices from the Mexico experience.

E. Collect disaggregated data on indigenous peoples

48. UNFPA carried out in 2007 a workshop for the successful preparation and implementation of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses. It included a special session on the topic of indigenous peoples. Important topics were discussed, such as the importance of promoting the participation of indigenous leaders in census preparatory activities and of formulating adequate questions to capture this data adequately. As a result of the discussions, UNICEF, the Economic Commission

for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and UNFPA agreed to carry out during 2008 a specific workshop on the topic of indigenous peoples and population censuses.

49. Likewise, at the regional level, the UNFPA partnership with the Population and Development Division of ECLAC, permitted the generation and dissemination of a "System of socio-demographic indicators on indigenous peoples and populations for the Americas", including the elaboration of studies on indigenous urban migration and settlements.

50. In Guatemala, UNFPA has provided support for the generation and use of disaggregated data on indigenous peoples in rural and urban areas. In this regard, it has helped Government institutions in the elaboration of indexes of social marginality and introduced them into strategic territorial plans of action in order to make visible the concerns of indigenous peoples at the local level. In addition, a project to strengthen statistics, with an emphasis on gender and ethnic issues, is being designed and will be coordinated by the National Statistical Institute, the Presidential Secretariat of Women, and the Office of the Ombudsman for Indigenous Women.

51. During 2007, the UNFPA country office in El Salvador provided guidelines on and promoted the involvement of indigenous peoples in the process of their recent population and housing census (May 2007), which will hopefully produce updated information on indigenous peoples.

52. In Ecuador, UNFPA assisted the generation, usage and dissemination of disaggregated data on indigenous peoples and the establishment of the National Statistical Committee for Indigenous Peoples and People of Afro-Ecuadorean Descent. This Committee, in close coordination with the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, the Council on Indigenous Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador, and the Council for Afro-Ecuadorian Development, will seek to harmonize qualitative and quantitative information and methodologies in order to derive more precise indicators for measuring life conditions among indigenous peoples. Moreover, in close partnership with the Population and Development Division of ECLAC, UNFPA carried out a workshop for reviewing the best qualitative and quantitative collection of statistics on indigenous peoples.

53. In Mexico, UNFPA assisted the design and use of geo-demographic information systems designed in priority states to collect and systematize reliable data to improve their availability, as well as for mapping the location of different indigenous peoples. These systems support public policies aimed at expanding local capacities for decision-making processes and increasing awareness on indigenous development issues. Likewise, in the Lancandona tropical forest of Chiapas, UNFPA México provided support for the elaboration of surveys and qualitative studies on reproductive health, population dynamics and the usage of natural resources. Responding to the Forum recommendation on addressing the issue of migration among indigenous groups, UNFPA México supported the definition of strategies and public policies that address the consequences of migration to and from the state of Guerrero.

54. In Nicaragua, in partnership with the University of the Atlantic Autonomous Region and ECLAC, UNFPA carried out a study on the theme "Socio-demographic inequalities: tendencies and relevance for public policies". This study highlights the

disparities that exist in general fertility and in adolescent fertility, and its relationship to high levels of infant mortality among indigenous peoples. The results of the study were presented with recommendations to the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency, NGOs, universities and civil society groups in the last quarter of 2007.

55. At the request of the Secretariat of the Presidency of Honduras, UNFPA conducted a similar study on the theme "The ethnic issue in Honduras, policy strategies and criteria for geographic targeting of culturally differentiated groups". The study was formulated on the basis of Government recognition that during the past 10 years, the State has had a tendency to address indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples' issues from a "pro poor" perspective, and with a tendency towards homogenization. By not recognizing cultural diversity, its development initiatives towards them have been limited, and the strategies and tools used have not been sufficiently efficient or effective. This interesting study recognizes that a new agenda for dealing with indigenous and Afro-descendent populations should consider the need for a legal and institutional framework and a specific policy that recognizes the importance of intercultural policies for achieving development with identity in Honduras.

56. In Brazil, UNFPA is intensifying its work on indigenous issues, and during 2008 it will partner with the Ministry of Public Affairs and various universities to carry out, with the assistance of Spanish funds, a comparative study on the situation of the Guarani people living in the border areas of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. It is expected that this study will inform policymaking and decision-making regarding indigenous peoples. UNFPA will contribute to the socio-demographic and anthropological component.

57. In Cambodia, indigenous issues were also incorporated into the 2008 census. Special attention is being given to advocacy materials for indigenous groups and selection of indigenous enumerators to ensure the full participation of these groups. Key data will also be disaggregated by indigenous languages to ensure that complete information on indigenous groups is available. In late 2006 and early 2007, UNFPA supported consultation on indigenous issues in Rattanakiri, the most populated indigenous area. District consultative workshops led up to a provincial consultative meeting with the active participation of indigenous persons, relevant Government institutions, stakeholders and donors, with the purpose of publicizing their specific reproductive health, population and gender issues, and of bringing their particular needs to the attention of policymakers. The UNFPA country office has also been a core sponsor of the annual national forum on indigenous peoples and issues.

58. In Peru, UNFPA has supported national efforts to include in the questionnaire of the national census a question regarding the language spoken by the mother or grandmother of the interviewee, in order to identify those people that come from households with indigenous ancestry. Also noteworthy was that in 2007, the National Statistics and Information Institute published its annual population report, which that focused on indigenous populations and personal identity documentation.

II. UNFPA support to conferences and meetings

59. In Ecuador, the inter-agency thematic group on interculturality convened a meeting of indigenous leaders with representatives of Government and NGOs in order to review the Forum theme and prepare recommendations for the sixth session. In Bolivia, a similar inter-agency group organized a meeting with leaders from the main indigenous groups in the country to prepare the delegation for the sixth session, and, upon its return, held a meeting with representatives from other indigenous groups in order to share the main outcomes and recommendations of the sixth session.

60. At the regional level, the Latin American and Caribbean Division of UNFPA continued providing support for the participation of indigenous women leaders of Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas in the sixth session of the Forum, while the country offices of Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Nicaragua supported the participation of indigenous leaders from their countries.

61. UNFPA Nicaragua supported the participation of indigenous leaders in a meeting on indigenous peoples held in Honduras in August, while UNFPA México supported a round table on population policies and indigenous peoples in the context of a national consultative process carried out for discussion of its programme priorities for the period 2007-2012. It also provided support for the organization of a national congress on indigenous populations, during which a national network on indigenous population research was established.

III. Facilitating factors and obstacles

62. Facilitating factors and obstacles encountered in our work on indigenous issues has depended greatly on the nature of the countries and the interests of their Governments. In many countries, especially in South America, political conditions have been important opportunities for advancing the agenda.

63. In other countries, obstacles have been related to weak political will, lack of adequate budgets and changes in Government institutions. Nonetheless, in most countries there have been key governmental and civil society partners and indigenous networks that have become strategic for UNFPA in contributing to the implementation of the recommendations of the Forum at both the regional and country levels.